FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 SEPTEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Syrian Warning on U.S. Involvement — In response to the announcement confirming that U.S. ships have shelled areas where Syrian troops are located, Syria has ordered its forces to respond to any attack on their positions from land, sea, or air by shelling the sources of fire, a Syrian military spokesman announced on 17 September in a statement broadcast by Damascus television. U.S. warships, which had bombarded artillery emplacements in Syrian-controlled areas on 16-17 September, answered the Syrian warning by again shelling the artillery positions on 18 and 19 September, Beirut radio reported. The U.S. shelling was in response to artillery fire at a number of U.S. and Lebanese targets including the U.S. ambassador's residence and the Lebanese Defense Ministry, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. F-14 aircraft overflew Lebanese airspace after Syrian planes were seen over the Al-Biqa' valley, the radio reported 18 September. The radio subsequently disclosed that Syrian planes overflew northern Lebanon for the first time since the Israeli invasion. Diplomatic sources cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio said the Syrian Air Force has been placed on maximum alert.

Military Situation — Heavy fighting continued in the Suq al-Gharb area over the weekend and the Lebanese Air Force continued air strikes against artillery and vehicles of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its Palestinian allies, according to Beirut radio. The Army repulsed another attack from the 'Alayh direction early on 19 September and also exchanged fire with Syrian forces in the 'Uyun as-Siman area, the radio said. The Army and Air Force destroyed a number of T-54 tanks and inflicted heavy casualties on their opponents, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon reports over the weekend. A Lebanese military spokesman cited by Beirut radio confirmed that a Lebanese warplane was shot down on 16 September; another Lebanese plane was hit and forced to land in Cyprus, according to a Cyprus Government statement reported by Nicosia television. Voice of Lebanon said SAM-7 missiles have been used unsuccessfully against Lebanese planes and also claimed that Soviet advisers have ruled out the possibility of using SAM-6's against them. However, the PSP-backed National Salvation Front (NSF) announced in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio that NSF artillery had responded to Air Force raids in the 'Alayh area by shelling the newly established military airport near Jubayl. Beirut radio said Syrian rocket launchers were responsible for the shelling, which caused casualties, and it reported that the Lebanese Army returned the fire.

In another development, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi placed Libyan forces in Al-Biqa' at the disposal of PSP leader Walid Junblatt and also placed the Libyan Armed Forces and all their equipment at Syria's disposal, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio announced. Libya currently has 600 men in the Al-Biqa', according to AFP. Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli on 16 September, issued contradictory statements about Palestinian involvement in the Ash-Shuf fighting. While he reportedly told ANSA that Palestinian fighters "are participating" in the fighting, AFP quoted 'Arafat as denying that the PLO is taking part. A Lebanese Army Command statement reported by Beirut radio provided details of several Palestinians killed in the fighting around Kayfun and Lebanese military sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo claimed that the Army captured 80 Palestinians on 17-18 September. Nevertheless, a PSP "responsible source" announced that while the PSP thanks 'Arafat for his declaration of support, it insists that it does not need support from the Palestinians or other outside forces, Damascus radio reported.

Political Developments — Lebanon cannot possibly accept Syria's conditions to "neutralize" the Army and the Chamber of Deputies, President Amin al-Jumayyil stated in a French television interview reported by Beirut radio. Claiming that the current problems could be solved "in 5 minutes" if he had the opportunity to meet PSP leader Walid Junblatt, Al-Jumayyil blamed Syria for instigating the fighting. Syria and Israel, the two regional "superpowers," are using mercenaries as a cover for their expansionist goals in Lebanon, the president asserted.

Meanwhile, Syrian sources cited by KUNA disclosed that Saudi mediator Prince Bandar ibn Sultan may return to Syria to continue his efforts to secure a cease-fire. The Saudi envoy had left Damascus for home on 16 September expressing doubts about the continuation of his mission, KUNA said. While the Voice of Lebanon blamed Syria for obstructing an accord worked out among Lebanese President al-Jumayyil, Prince Bandar, and U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane, Radio Monte Carlo said the "pessimism" surrounding Prince Bandar's mission arose after the Lebanese Government "rejected the Saudi proposals for the third time" and escalated the military situation on 16 September. After the prince's talks in Damascus with Syrian officials and PSP leader Junblatt that day, the latter confirmed in a Radio Monte Carlo interview that the dispute over the role of the Lebanese Army remains the key issue in the negotiations. Junblatt subsequently stated that he will not permit Lebanon to become a Phalangist state, "even if this means the end of Lebanon," DPA reported.

In Israel Defense Minister Moshe Arens appealed to the PSP's Druze fighters to return to their villages and stop the fighting around Suq al-Gharb, where they have "nothing to look for," according to remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Israel will continue to strike the "terrorists" wherever they are, Arens warned.

Meanwhile, the PSP began experimental transmissions from a newly established radio station, the Amman paper *Ad-Dustur* reported. In a separate development, a traditional Druze rival of the Junblatt family, Amir Majid Arslan, died in a Beirut hospital, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

PLO Affairs

After arriving in northern Lebanon, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that he was in the area to help confront threats against the Palestinian revolution from the United States, Israel, and local "agents," according to north Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio. 'Arafat met with PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir and other PLO officials in Tripoli, inspected PLO bases in the area, and urged Palestinian fighters to increase vigilance in order to confront "all possible developments," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. A PLO spokesman cited By Radio Monte Carlo affirmed that 'Arafat's presence in Tripoli is not a provocation against Syria.

Earlier, in a message to the Palestinians broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO, 'Arafat commemorated the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres, for which he held the U.S. Administration "directly responsible" because of its "blatant and shameful collusion" with "the Zionist clique and its agents."

In another development, the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan* reported that the PLO reconciliation committee has achieved some progress in its talks with Fatah dissidents, who have persuaded the Fatah Central Committee to escalate armed conflict and reject political solutions for the Palestinian issue, according to KUNA. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf told the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Qabas* that the PLO has no plans to withdraw from the Al-Biqa' valley and reaffirmed its opposition to establishing a government-in-exile. He declared that one participant at a recent conference of wealthy Palestinians in Tunisia on the question of a government-in-exile was a "spy" for Syria. Khalaf also expressed optimism that the PLO and Israel will exchange prisoners shortly.

Jordan

Jordan will continue talks with the Palestinians and remains committed to their cause, King Husayn stressed in an interview in Tokyo broadcast by Amman television. He reaffirmed that the United States must play "a very major role" in any progress toward a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Israel

President Chaim Herzog met with Alignment and Likud delegations 18 September as he began a process which will culminate in his decision on a successor to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, according to Jerusalem Radio. Herzog will meet with other factions' representatives to hear their opinions before making his decision, which is expected by 21 September, IDF radio said.

Police in Jerusalem arrested 25 demonstrators protesting on the first anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres in Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. Around the country, other incidents — mostly stonethrowing — marked the anniversary, the radio noted.

Syria

An explosion in a Hamah textile factory killed three people and injured six others, Voice of Lebanon radio reported 17 September. The Syrian Army arrested several alleged Muslim Brotherhood supporters in connection with the incident, the radio said.

Egypt

A Soviet Foreign Ministry official arrived in Cairo 2 days ahead of schedule for talks on bilateral relations and the Middle East situation, according according to MENA. It is the first visit by a Soviet official to Egypt since 1981, MENA stated.

Iran-Iraq War

France has suspended its scheduled delivery of five Super Etendard aircraft to Iraq and the planes are still at Landivisiau Air Force base, AFP reported on 18 September citing "reliable sources" at the French base. The previous day, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in a Tehran radio interview that if the French aircraft are used to disturb Gulf security, then "it will be the turn of the Straits of Hormuz to be unsafe too." Iran has the power to shut the "gate" to the Gulf, which should either be safe for everybody or for nobody, the Majlis speaker contended.

Meanwhile, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 17 September announced that Iranian troops launched an offensive in the northern sector, capturing an Iraqi border post north of Marivan and advancing toward the Shilayr River in Iraq. Hundreds of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, the communique said, and an Iraqi helicopter was shot down. An Iraqi military spokesman later ridiculed the claims in a statement reported by INA, calling them "wishful thinking." Iraqi communiques carried by Baghdad radio and INA over the weekend did not mention any Iranian offensive but claimed Iraqi units had attacked Iranian troop concentrations in the northern and central sectors. Meanwhile, an Iranian Joint Staff and Guards Corps communique broadcast by Tehran radio 18 September claimed Iranian forces are in "full control" of the northern region, including newly "liberated" Iraqi territory.

An Iraqi communique carried by INA 16 September admitted the loss of an Iraqi plane over Iranian territory the day before. The Iraqi Sukhoy-22 was downed during an air raid on Marivan, according to a communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

Pilgrimage Dispute

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi denied Saudi allegations of a pledge made by Iranian pilgrims not to organize any protest demonstrations in Mecca, IRNA reported. In an earlier statement published by the Karachi paper *Dawn*, the Saudi Interior Ministry declared that despite actions inconsistent with the purpose of the hajj, the Kingdom has always endeavored to deal fairly with Iranian pilgrims. The statement decried Iranian propaganda against the Saudi authorities and warned against any actions contrary to Islamic principles during the hajj.

Pakistan

Seven Afghan MIG's "gravely violated" Pakistani airspace and bombed a village near Parachinar in northwest Pakistan, Karachi radio reported. The Pakistani Government is informing the UN secretary general of the incident, the radio said.

Police using tear gas and clubs dispersed antigovernment demonstrators in Karachi 16 September, according to AFP. As the civil disobedience campaign entered its second month, the jailed leader of the banned Pakistan People's Party called for a national strike 28-29 September to coincide with scheduled local elections in Sind and Punjab, AFP said.

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'Arafat Arrives in North Lebanon 17 September

NC170732 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] the PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in northern Lebanon last night. He immediately met with the cadres of the Palestinian revolution in the north and briefed them on the current situation, developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, and international stands.

Explains Presence

NC180805 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar held several press and television interviews yesterday with international press and television delegations. He answered questions by journalists, especially a question on why he came to northern Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I am in northern Lebanon because there is a U.S. threat, an Israeli threat, and a threat from the agents in the area to the Palestinian revolution and cause. I am here to be with the fighters and masses of the Palestinian people to confront these threats embodied in the agreement of the Americans, the Israelis, the isolationists, and some agents against us. However, we will succeed in foiling the new plot, just as we brought about the downfall of Haig, Sharon, and Begin. We brought about their downfall with our blood, and with our blood we will bring about the downfall of all enemies.

PLO Presence in Lebanese Mountains Admitted

NC181628 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Beirut, Sep 18 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today admitted that there were Palestinian guerrillas in the Lebanese mountains, but said they were not directly involved in fighting with the Lebanese Army.

Speaking to foreign journalists at the Palestinian camp of Al-Baddawi, north of the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli, Mr 'Arafat said the guerrillas were part of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese Force which had been in the Lebanese mountains before the Israeli army redeployed to southern Lebanon. He said the guerrillas had remained in the region "as it was their duty to do so."

Mr 'Arafat would not say how many Palestinian troops were in the mountains, but stressed they were there to fight the Israelis, not the Lebanese Army.

"Our duty is to fight and chase out the Israelis, which is what we are doing and what we will continue to do," he said. "We are not taking part in the fighting (in the mountains). We would do so if Walid Junblatt asked us to. He has not done so yet. For the moment he does not need us," he said.

However, a Lebanese Army statement today said the bodies of several Palestinian combatants had been found by Army troops south of Suq al-Gharb, in the mountains east of Beirut. Three of the bodies carried identity papers showing they belonged to Mr 'Arafat's Fatah movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the statement added.

Mr 'Arafat had arrived in Tripoli Friday, a year after leaving Lebanon, and before his visit to Al-Baddawi was given a triumphal welcome at the other Palestinian refugee camp in the area at Nahr al-Barid, 10 kms (6 miles) further north. He told thousands of cheering refugees that while the Israeli-U.S. political initiative for Palestinians had faded to nothing in the past year, the Palestinians themselves would continue to fight.

"Our revolution is always there. The wind of the revolution moves mountains. It is a huge revolution, and we will continue to fight together; it is our destiny until we have won," he said.

(Meanwhile, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, said in Tel Aviv today that the Israeli authorities were surprised at the "massive proportions" of the Palestinian intervention. However, they had predicted a Palestinian-supported Druze victory in the Ash-Shuf mountains after the Israeli withdrawal from the area, because the Druze and the Lebanese Government had failed to reach agreement beforehand, he told an Israeli-U.S. Chamber of Trade meeting.)

'Arafat Inspects Palestinian Bases in Lebanon

JN171752 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1624 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Brother leader 'Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, today inspected a number of the Palestinian revolution's positions and bases in northern Lebanon. He met with the Palestinian revolution's fighters and cadres and congratulated them on the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

During his inspection tour, 'Arafat acquainted himself with the standards acheived by the Palestinian revolution's forces in training, armament, and preparedness to bravely confront all the developments of the situation in defense of their revolution and people. 'Arafat was briefed by the commanders of the Palestinian units and positions on the military situation on the ground.

In a statement to the revolution's fighters and cadres in their positions, Abu 'Ammar warned that the coming days will witness serious developments on political and military levels. He also urged them to become more vigilant and alert in confronting all possible developments.

'Arafat arrived in Tripoli yesterday and held an emergency meeting in the presence of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, which wasattended by the military commanders and political cadres in the northern area [of Lebanon]. During this meeting they discussed all the current developemnts in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas, including the explosive situation in the mountains and Ash-Shuf.

'Arafat Urges Withdrawal of Peace Force

AU181905 Rome ANSA in English 1855 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] (ANSA) — Tripoli (Lebanon), Sep 18 — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, told ANSA Sunday that the multinational force in Lebanon was playing a shameful role there and that it would be better for everyone, including the foreign "peacekeepers", if they withdrew. The PLO chief confirmed the fact that Palestinians were fighting at the side of left-wing Lebanese guerrillas in the Ash-Shuf mountains. He said he expected the Middle East situation to erupt like a volcano, and with regard to the future role of the PLO, he said "facts speak louder than words".

'Arafat returned to the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli Friday where the nucleus of the PLO's military organization is based. Ever since he was expelled from Syria June 24, 'Arafat has been based in Tunis. His return to Lebanon Friday took observers by surprise.

Asked why he returned, 'Arafat said "because it was my duty". He claimed that there was an American and Israeli conspiracy afoot in Lebanon against the Palestinian people. "I have been commander of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces since 1976 and it is my duty to be with these fighters at such a grave moment," he went on.

Asked what role the PLO could play in the Lebanese crisis, 'Arafat said that "we hope that there is a reconciliation among the Lebanese on a basis of equality." At this time we will try to back our allies (the Lebanese left), those [who] faced the Israeli invasion with us and who with us suffered the massacres at Sabra and Shatila. "We have this right because we are faced with a conspiracy to partition Lebanon, and the security of the entire Mideast region is at stake," he continued.

Question: Is what the Lebanese Government says true: that the Palestinians are fighting with Druze guerrillas in the Ash-Shuf?

Answer: That is true. There are Palestinians fighting in the Ash-Shuf.

Question: Do you mean that there are regular PLO troops there?

Answer: There are Palestinian fighters.

Question: Is there any military cooperation between the PLO and Walid Junblatt's National Salvation Front?

Answer: We and the Lebanese patriots form a joint force that has fought against the Israelis and forced them to withdraw from the Ash-Shuf.

Question: How do you judge the role of the multinational force?

Answer: It is a shameful role. There was an agreement with Philip Habib, (U.S.) President (Ronald) Reagan's envoy, on the basis of which the multinational force was to have protected the Palestinians in Beirut, and yet the massacres at Sabra and Shatila were allowed.

Question: Do you see any difference between the American and the European troops in this force?

Answer: There might be a few small differences, but the Europeans are as much involved as the Americans. I have the right to ask why they do not respect their commitment to protect Palestinian institutions in Lebanon and the people in the refugee camps.

Question: Are you in favor of the withdrawal of the multinational force from Lebanon?

Answer: Certainly. Absolutely. The multinational force blocks any Arab solution for Lebanon. When the European and American soldiers leave it will be better for everyone: for the Lebanese, for the Palestinians, for the Arab nation, and for they themselves as they risk falling into this trap.

Question: And yet it was you who asked the Italian soldiers to return to Beirut. [passage indistinct]

Multinational force betrays us, that it shamefully fails in its duty. [as received]

Question: What do you foresee for the Mideast and for Lebanon?

Answer: The volcanic eruption that began with the Israeli invasion will continue. No one is safe, not Lebanon, not the multinational force, not even Israel.

Question: You have accused just about everybody: The United States, Israel, the multinational force, Lebanon. What about Syria which so abruptly expelled you?

Answer: It is clear that there are differences between us and the Syrians, but we must overcome them to jointly face our common enemies.

Question: Does your presence in Tripoli, a city [words indistinct] returning here?

Answer: I do not have to ask anyone for permission to be with my fighters.

Question: To lead them in what direction? What projects do you have?

Answer: Let the facts speak. They speak louder than words.

'Arafat Speaks on Massacre Anniversary

JN170835 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1633 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text of message PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat addressed to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation on the first anniversaryof the Sabra and Shatila massacres — date and place not specified; read by announcer]

[Text] Masses of our people and Arab nation, my brothers and beloved ones in the Palestinian revolution, strugglers in all the revolution positions: I address you from the deep wounds of Sabra and Shatila and from the heart of the revolutionary suffering imposed on our people and march. I address you with a heart full of faith and confidence derived from your rejuvenating resoluteness and stubborn determination to continue the march of the revolution toward the homeland, Palestine.

One whole year has passed since the crime of this age was perpetrated by the Zionist clique and its agents against our steadfast kinfolk in the Sabra and Shatila camps. This crime was perpetrated through a blatant and shameful collusion by the U.S. Administration, which failed to honor its pledges and relinquished the guarantees which it promised the whole world. Thus, it is held directly responsible for the killing of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese in Sabra and Shatila in the same way as it is held responsible for the criminal Zionist aggression against Lebanon in 1982. This aggression is continuing even now, imposing on Lebanon and the Arab nation a tragic fait accompli abounding with death, destruction, evacuation, and threats to destiny.

One long year has passed since the Sabra and Shatila massacres were perpetrated. Thoughout this year our Palestinian revolution paved and is still paving its difficult and glorious road amid large challenges, endless minefields, and both ceaseless and well planned plotting. Despite all of this, the revolution continued its correct march so that its influential action could continue on all levels.

Our military operations behind the enemy lines and in our occupied territory have not ceased for a moment. It is no secret for anyone that these operations, which turned into a successful war of attrition during which the enemy sustained human and material losses, forces the Zionist leaders to withdraw to the Al-Awwali River and to reorganize their lines in order to avert further losses. These operations were the main reason which prompted the Zionist leaders to retreat and change their calculations. Instead of reaping the fruit of their barbaric aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution, the Zionist leaders are now wholly engaged in their impasse, exchanging accusations to such an extent that they admitted their failure and the heavy price they paid for their aggression. The highest price was paid when terrorist Begin offered himself as a scapegoat for his abortive war which has not yet ended. Zionist Sharon and American Haig were his predecessors.

My brothers and beloved fighters in the Palestinian revolution, the Zionists and their agents wanted to vanquish our masses' revolutionary will. By their savage and cowardly massacres they wanted to terrorize the people's masses and strike at their strong revolutionary commitment to their revolution and cause after the Palestinian-Lebanese masses and their joint forces had scored the most splendid epic of steadfastness and challenge throughout our contemporary history. This epic was most splendidly manifested in the great battle of Beirut and the heroic battles in the south.

The Zionists have forgotten or have pretended to forget a fact which they have known throughout the long conflict. It is a fact that there is no room for fear in the hearts of the struggling masses, and that hardships, ordeals, and massacres only increase the people's determination to embark on revolution, to be committed to its course, and to make generous offers for its sake. This fact has been decisively proven by our great people both inside and outside the occupied territory. Through their continuous uprisings these people have declared their abidance by the revolution and by the PLO and its national program.

This fact has recently been crowned by the most splendid worldwide political demonstrations in support of Palestine and its revolution and cause. This support was expressed at the large international conference held in Geneva. This international congregation expressed support for the Palestinian cause and the justice of that cause, and underlined the outstanding international status of the PLO. Moreover, it emphasized a strong international commitment to the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil.

My brothers and beloved fighters in the Palestinian revolution, we are observing the Sabra and Shatila anniversary with all the pain and bitterness it has. However, we take examples and learn unforgettable lessons from this anniversary. These examples and lessons should be kept in mind and memory. Perhaps one of the most important lessons is that the Palestinian blood, which mixed with the pure Lebanese blood on the soil of great Lebanon, has laid down the strong foundations of the greatest and sincerest militant alliance between two struggling peoples affiliated to one nation, one cause, and one destiny.

This great alliance, which created the legend of continuous confrontation throughout the past years and which also created the immortal Beirut battle, should remain strong, firmly entrenched, and deeply rooted. In the same way as the Lebanese people have always been with us in bad days, we will always remain with them and with their legitimate ambition to safeguard their future, as with their persistent struggle to firmly establish the pillars of their unity and Arabism under their National Forces and honorable leadership. This leadership is now leading the heroic Lebanese people's struggle against the Zionist occupation which is backed by the U.S. occupation. Our stand by the side of the Lebanese people and their national struggling forces is unlimited. We are always with them in one trench, the trench of defending Lebanon and Palestine.

My brothers and beloved ones, it is perhaps incidental that the first anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres coincided with the blessed 'Id al-Adha, symbol of sacrifice, as if the faith we carry in our throbbing hearts and our genuine heritage of sacrifices which extends throughout past history are continuing in ourselves and getting deeper in our minds and hearts, pushing us toward further offers and sacrifices. This is the destiny of the struggling and sacrificing peoples who endure difficulties no matter how large they are for the sake of achieving their aims. It is the destiny of the struggling and sacrificing peoples to triumph. We take pride in the power and commitment of our masses inside and outside our occupied territory. These masses are a protective shield and a constant source for the continuation of the revolution until victory. This is our unshaken conviction, which makes us view the future with all confidence and faith, reiterating the immortal slogan of our revolution: Revolution, revolution until victory.

My heartfelt greetings to our heroic Lebanese-Palestinian masses. A greeting of admiration and esteem to all fighters in the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national revolution. A greeting of love, faithfulness, and pride to all our beloved Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in the Ansar Detention Camp and in all prisons and detention camps. A greeting to the souls of our innocent martyrs in Sabra and Shatila and the souls of all our innocent martyrs. Let us proceed together until victory.

[Signed] Your brother, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

'Arafat Addresses Public Rally 18 September

NC190740 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman and Palestinian Revolution Forces commander in chief — identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar — at a public rally in the Nahr al-Barid Camp in northern Lebanon on 18 September — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful. Brothers: I am pleased to meet once again here in northern Lebanon, in national and heroic Tripoli. We are meeting now under these difficult circumstances through which the Palestinian revolution, the national movement, Syria, and the Arab nation are passing. They are grave international circumstances. It is no coincidence at all that U.S. French, British, and Italian fleets, as well as their aircraft, are concentrating within our sight.

I want to remind you of what happened a year ago when Reagan gave the green light for the Israeli military campaign. You remember how at that time he and Sharon planned to finish off this revolution and to exterminate the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces. Some said in 3 days, some said in 5 days; Eytan came and insolently said: No, I will finish them off in 48 hours.

You remember that this took place 15 months ago. What was the result? The longest Arab-Israeli war; the Beirut epic and battles in Lebanon and southern Lebanon — from Ar-Rashidiyah, home of the RPG kids, to An-Nabatiyah, Hasbayya, Tyre, Sidon, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Ad-Damur, and Beirut. They discovered that the operation was not a promenade. We waged against them the longest Arab-Israeli war. It lasted 78 days. Then there was the departure [from Beirut]. However, we made a decision to escalate military operations at our National Council. Thank God, we the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces were loyal to the plan we adopted. We put the plan into action and turned it into a war of attrition against the enemy.

I want to take stock. Where is Haig? He got lost. Where is Sharon? He also got lost. Where is Begin? He is depressed in his house. Where is the Palestinian revolution? It exists. It exists through the operation it carried out the day before yesterday in An-Nabatiyah. It exists in the mountain, in the plain, here, and everywhere. We will not give them a moment of rest.

I say this so those who are still asleep may wake up. They must know that we are a mountain unshaken by winds. Perhaps some people get tired in times of hardship and difficulty. However, I tell them: I have not become tired. Those who became tired may move aside. I and this cub [young Palestinian fighter] will continue to fight until we reach Jerusalem.

I say this revolution is a giant whom no one can contain or control. We will continue to preserve our independent national decision. Brothers, we are not preserving our national decision because we are advocates of regionalism. We are preserving our Palestinian national decision, our Lebanese national decision, and our Arab national decision. This decision will not be mortgaged to the United States or to its agents, nor to those who speak Hebrew and those who speak Arabic.

Some agents speak Hebrew, such as Begin and Sharon. Some agents speak Arabic, but I do not want to mention their names. I tell these agents one thing: This revolution is a giant.

When our situation became critical, what happened, brothers? Help came. From where did help come? From our masses in the occupied land when they met in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, made the pledge, and said: At your service Palestine.

This revolution exists here in Lebanon, there in the occupied land, in Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Algeria. This revolution is allied with the Lebanese National Movement and Forces. The joint forces are making the history of Lebanon, the history of Palestine, and the history of the Arab nation.

I say this because in this bad Arab time many get weak hearted. However, I tell them one thing: We adhere to our pledge. A pledge is a pledge and an oath is an oath. We are together until victory.

Brothers, our path is long. We must be up to the revolutionary and civilization responsibility imposed on us. However, this needs men. I tell you we need one thing: We need men who make a pledge to God, the revolution, the homeland, and the Arab nation. I know on whom to count. I count on you against all oppression and plotting. Therefore, as you see, all the plots will be founded on the rock of your steadfastness and patriotism. We will march together until we reach Jerusalem.

'Arafat Inspects Camp, Meets Delegations

NC182044 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1912 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, accompanied by brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the revolution forces, have made an inspection tour of the revolution's positions in the Nahr al-Barid Camp. Palestinian masses lined the camp's streets to welcome Brothers Abu 'Ammar and Abu Jihad with cries of joy.

At the armed struggle office in the camp, the commander in chief addressed the masses. He affirmed the revolution's continuing determination to confront all plots. He added: It is not a coincidence to meet with you here 15 months after the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and when the U.S. fleets are within sight. Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the U.S. schemes are mainly aimed against the Palestinian issue. However he added: Our masses inside the occupied territories gathered at the blessed Al-Aqsa to renew their pledge to the revolution and the PLO. This is the same stand as that of our Palestinian people in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Algeria, as well as those at their assembly points [in other countries]. We will proceed together on the same road until victory.

Brother Abu 'Ammar resumed his inspection tour today. He visited a number of joint forces' bases. He addressed the brother fighters, pointing out to them the current situation and the dangers menacing the Arab area as a result of the U.S. and Zionist threats against Lebanon and the Palestinian issue.

Brother Abu 'Ammar had earlier received several delegations representing the Lebanese national and Islamic forces which visited the brother commander to offer congratulations on 'Id al-Adha and on his safe arrival. He received the communist action organization delegation led by Comrade 'Abd al-Fattah, who conveyed a message from the organization's secretary general Muhsin Ibrahim. The message dealt with the latest developments on the Lebanese arena and with the Arab situation.

Later, Brother Abu 'Ammar received a delegation representing the popular committees and leagues comprising Brothers Ra'd Bashshur and Ghazi al-Adham. He also received a delegation of the Lebanese Islamic Unification Movement comprising Khalil 'Akkawi and Shaykh Kan'an. Brother Abu 'Ammar and his interlocutors reviewed the latest developments in the current Lebanese situation and the circumstances through which the Palestinian revolution is passing. The commander in chief held the U.S. Administration responsible for the grave deterioration of the situation. He said: If the U.S. schemes and policy continue, they will partition Lebanon as an essential prelude toward balkanizing the Arab region. He said that the U.S. will not [word indistinct] the Lebanese people, or the Palestinian people or the Arab nation. The attempts by the U.S. Administration to ignore the basic facts in the Middle East region places this administration in a big predicament. He added: [words indistinct] there should be no peace or security in this area without the direction recognition of the rights of this area's peoples for self-determination, foremost being the Palestinian people led by the PLO.

Fatah CC Agrees 'To Escalate Armed Conflict'

LD171547 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0906 GMT 17 SEP 83

[Text] Kuwait — *Al-Watan* stated today that the Palestinian reconciliation delegation has achieved some progress in the talks it had with the opposition Fatah movement, the largest Palestinian organization. Reporting from Amman, the paper said that the Fatah movement Central Committee agreed to the demands of the opposition to escalate armed conflict and to reject political solutions, and it altered the proposal of the reconciliation delegation on setting up a provisional committee to man a joint committee.

The paper attributed to unnamed Palestinian sources the information that the opposition inside Fatah approved the proposal for setting up a joint committee in place of a provisional committee.

AL-QABAS Interviews Fatah's Salah Khalaf

GF161930 Kuwait Al-Qabas in Arabic 15 Sep 83 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, by *Al-Qabas* Editor-in-Chief Muhammad Jasim as-Saqr in Kuwait — no date given]

[Excerpts] [As-Saqr] Is there a plan for Palestinian withdrawal from Al-Biqa'?

[Khalaf] No, there is not. Rumors to that effect are an attempt to injure the Palestinian revolution and strike at it in an unethical and dishonorable manner. I ask you: Which is better for Abu 'Ammar, to be a leader of the forces of the Palestinian revolution spread in Aden, San'a', and Sudan, or a leader of a revolution that is fighting Israel — even on the personal level? The issue of withdrawal from Al-Biqa' is an attempt to distort Abu 'Ammar's stand. Who wants us to withdraw from Lebanon? Our presence in Al-Biqa' is necessary. We never told Amin al-Jumayyil — neither I nor any Palestinian official or representative — that we want to withdraw from Al-Biqa'. We always linked our withdrawal with the Israeli withdrawal. If we withdraw from Lebanon where shall we go? Do we go to Khartoum? What would we do in Khartoum? This is illogical. Is there a political solution that can be achieved without our presence in Al-Biqa'? I wish there was one. Thus to say that we want to withdraw from Al-Biqa' is a sheer distortion.

[As-Saqr] Recently there has been talk about a government-in-exile. Is a government-in-exile really about to be formed?

[Khalaf] A group of wealthy Palestinian members of the PNC held a conference in Hammamet in Tunisia. We were invited to this conference. Without naming names, one of those who attended this conference is a spy who always writes reports to the [Arab] regimes. One of our faults is that there are some people in the Palestinian leadership who have become accustomed to writing reports for the Arab regimes. One of those who wrote the reports — one of those whom I call "leaders for hire" — wrote a report saying that preparations for a government-in-exile are being made with the PLO. We argued at the conference that the formation of a government-in-exile is contrary to the aims of the

PLO, and that you cannot have both a government-in-exile and the PLO. The establishment of a government-in-exile was rejected at the conference, particularly by those who write [reports] for the Syrian Government. We believe that a government-in-exile means that the PLO is finished. The PLO's role is not finished. There is still a long struggle before the formation of a government. Therefore, everything that has been said about the formation of a government-in-exile is a rumor. We are opposed to the formation of a government-in-exile as long as the PLO has a role to play and as long as a long struggle remains.

[As-Saqr] Why doesn't the PLO convene an international conference to discuss the case of the Al-Ansar Camp prisoners?

[Khalaf] In fact this issue has been discussed at several international gatherings. The reason why we are not calling for such a conference is that negotiations are currently taking place on the release of eight Israeli prisoners in return for all the Al-Ansar prisoners and 1,000 prisoners in the occupied territories. We hope that the negotiations will be concluded in the next few weeks, particularly as the difficulty with Ahmad Jibril [leader of the PFLP General Command] on the two prisoners [held by the PFLP General Command] has been resolved. Thank God we have overcome this crisis. The negotiations are almost over. Therefore all the Al-Ansar prisoners, as well as 1,000 prisoners from the occupied territories, will be released within a matter of weeks. We have also agreed on the method of their departure. We stipulated one condition, namely that the Palestinian who used to live in Lebanon shoud remain in Lebanon, and the Palestinian who was arrested in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip should remain in the occupied territories. We will accept any Palestinian who came from outside Lebanon, the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

[As-Saqr] What is the stand of the Gulf countries toward the Palestinian cause?

[Khalaf] I believe that there is great cohesion between the Gulf people, particularly Kuwaitis and the Palestinians. The occurrence of negative incidents now and then does not affect the essence of this relationship. This is a fact which any Palestinian or Kuwait realizes. To a certain extent I can say that this applies to all the Arabian Gulf countries.

The Palestinian people are indebted to Kuwait and are anxious to safeguard Kuwait's security and must not endanger it. Our stay in Kuwait is temporary until our return to Palestine. Occationally I sense that there are elements that try to drive a wedge between the Palestinians and Kuwaits on both the official and popular levels, and seek to exploit some incidents. Let me give you some examples: Before I came to Kuwait I heard that some Palestinians carried out a burglary. Some people tried to exploit the incident. I ask: Are the Palestinian people immune from having burglars? Those who carried out the burglary were obsessed by money. This can happen. However, this does not mean that all the Palestianian people should be branded. Those who carried out the burglary were rich. Perhaps a poor man would not have committed such an act. There are attempts by certain quarters to undermined Palestinian-Kuwaiti relations.

I have cited this example because the publicity given to the incident in the press, as though it was directed against all Palestinians, has annoyed the Palestinians very much. This feeling is exploited by some people who want a few incidents to cast their shadow on the Palestinians' historic relationship with the Kuwaiti people. I do not rule out the possibility that some alien elements may commit actions in the name of Palestinians in order to undermine Palestinian-Kuwaiti relations.

Personally I believe that the official Kuwaiti stand is very good. I am an admirer of Kuwait's foreign policy. It is a balanced policy. Kuwait's recent stand on the appointment of the U.S. ambassador was a patriotic and national stand. there are big countries that did not take a stand like that adopted by Kuwait on the appointment of U.S. ambassadors to their countries. I wish to assert that we in the Palestinian revolution are satisfied with the state of Kuwaiti-Palestinian relations.

[As-Saqr] What is your stand on Syria? Has the mediation committee made any progress?

[Khalaf] I can speak honestly and on behalf of all Palestinians that we are anxious to maintain our relations with our Syrian brothers and to make these relations reach the highest degree of fraternity and common action.

I would like to draw an example from real life: I think that if there had been Palestinian-Syrian coordination with regard to their national forces in past battles — something which we have always called for even before the dissident movement — the outcome would have been different. But our Syrian brothers have their own view, which we respect. We are ready for this alliance. We are ready to expand our links and establish a strong alliance provided that the Syrian and Arab brothers understand that we will not forego our dignity. I personally prefer to stay in exile than to abandon my dignity and hold a white flag. Speaking openly, the Palestinian revolution is noble and honest and will defend the entire Arab nation. Therefore, no Arab regime has the right to insult us or to look at us strangely. With all this in mind, we are ready to accept any relationship through which we can maintain our dignity. We want equal relations. We don't want intelligence relations. I affirm that we want relations that are based on parallel plans.

[As-Saqr] What are the results of Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue?

[Khalaf] At first, we should not be using the word "dialogue" to label this activity. In fact, there are Palestinian-Jordanian meetings similar to the Palestinian-Kuwaiti meetings or any other Arab meetings. We visit Jordan like we visit other countries. For example, I am now visiting Kuwait and Abu 'Ammar is visiting Jordan. In these visits we meet with officials and discuss various issues. But, the expression of a "dialogue between Jordan and Palestinians" means for some people that some type of an agreement on a specific settlement has been reached and will be imposed on citizens. We totally reject this dialogue if it is understood in this way. We regularly meet with the Jordanian officials for the purpose of resolving Palestinian problems and exchanging views on general problems. But there is no Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue for the purpose of revitalizing theReagan plan or to what is called the joint settlement.

[As-Saqr] What is the Soviet Union's position toward the Palestinian issue, especially since you have just completed a visit to the socialist camp? There were rumors stemming from your tour saying that the Soviets had told you during your visit to Moscow: "Comrade, you have come too late." Is this true?

[Khalaf] It is said that the greatest lies are those believed by the one who said them. I visited the Soviet Union once in June. In fact, it was a very successful visit both on the official level and in its content. Our position toward the Soviet Union is known. The Palestinian revolution is connected with the objectives of the Arab nation. Regarding the dissident movement within Fatah, the Soviet Union is backing the unity of the organization and is against all attempts to undermine this unity.

[As-Saqr] There are rumors that Aden backs the dissidents.

[Khalaf] I personally respect the PDRY, its policies, and leadership. I think that the PDRY is supporting us without consideration to its losses as a result of this support. Some Arab regimes threatened the PDRY that if it does not cut off its relations with the Palestinian revolution and Yasir 'Arafat they will stop their aid to it. But, Chairman 'Ali Nasir refused to be intimidated. This pressure was also widely rejected by the people in Aden.

Fes Summit Committee To Convene In New York

LD171132 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Excerpts] Rabat, 17 Sep (KUNA) — Arab diplomatic sources here have confirmed to KUNA that it has been agreed that the seven-member committee set up by the Fes Summit is to hold a meeting at the foreign minister level in New York under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II who, it has been learned, will be going to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

It has not yet been confirmed whether, while it is in New York, the committee will also hold talks with the U.S. Administration about opportunities for peace in the Middle East. However, interested Arab diplomatic sources have informed KUNA that talks will be held with the American Administration. Morocco and Saudi Arabia, the two active members of the committee, have already submitted practical proposals to the U.S. Administration on reaching a middle-of-the-road solution between the Fes peace plan and President Reagan's plan, but reactions received from many Arab countries have not been entirely encouraging.

In one of its meetings the seven-member committee agreed to send a memorandum to the United States which includes questions about the role of the Liberation Organization in the peace process and negotiations; however, the American reply to this memorandum was also negative since the American Administration feels that Jordan should have the main role in the negotiations. Diplomatic observers consider that the secret bilateral contacts by many of the Arab states with the American Administration have paved the way for a further round of talks between the delegation of the seven-member committee and the American Administration.

In the press conference he held before leaving Fes, U.S. Vice President George Bush refused to either confirm or refute such a visit.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Departs For UN Session

GF181036 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, and the delegation accompanying him, left the country for the United States today to attend the UN General Assembly session and to deliver a speech in the name of Oman.

In a predeparture statement to radio and television correspondents, Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah said the speech he will deliver will deal with current issues, primarily issues of interest to the Arab nation such as the Middle East question. He said that he hopes that during the UN General Assembly session the international community will be able to find a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran war which is a threat to international security and a serious threat to Gulf security.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said that he will meet with the foreign ministers of several fraternal and friendly countries and will discuss with them the coordination of stands at the United Nations and the development of bilateral relations.

Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah and the delegation accompanying him were seen off at the airport by the British ambassador to Oman, and by 'Abd al-Hafiz Musallam al-Qalam, deputy chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

SAUDI ARABIA

Statement Issued on Iranian 'Propaganda'

GF162020 Karachi Dawn in English 11 Sep 83 p 6

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Karachi on 11 September]

[Text] In order to clarify and debunk what was recently reported by the Iranian mass media, quoting some Iranian officials who leveled false allegations and baseless accusations against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the Saudi security authorities have refused to give response to the Irani applications for taking measures to ensure the comfort of Irani pilgrims, and that this attitude meant the cancellation of the journey of Irani pilgrims, and since the Irani campaigns of suspicion and misleading are mounting in a hurting and threatening manner, since before and even after the statement broadcast by Tehran Radio about the outcome of the meeting of the Iranian delegation with Saudi Hajj officials, and up to now, therefore, it was incumbent upon the concerned security authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to accounce the following facts:

Firstly: It is an established fact and known by all peoples of the Muslim world that the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has been honoured by Allah to serve Al-Haramayn Ash-Sharifayn [Mecca and Medina mosques], devotes all its potentials and capabilities during the Hajj season every year at various levels for serving the guests of Baitullah al-Haram, who come from every nook and corner of the Muslim world, and that it does its best to ensure their comfort and devotes all of its agencies in order to facilitate performing their Manasik in the best way. Similarly it provides all facilities of medical care and security right from their arrival up to their departure from Saudi territory safely to their home countries. There has never been in the past decades any complaint by any Muslim country, and none of these peoples had ever expressed grievance towards any Saudi agency or authority, but the contrary has always happened, and for that matter the agencies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been receiving thousands of telegrams and letters after the Hajj season containing expressions of gratitude and deep appreciation of the pilgrims for the efforts of the Kingdom in this regard, in spite of the fact that it did not expect any thanks on the performance of its Islamic and humanitarian duties. This had been the manner of Irani pilgrims also during all the previous years like other pilgrims.

Secondly: Since the past three years the authorities concerned with Hajj service in the Kingdom have been noticing that some of the Iranian pilgrims have started to deviate from the basic aim of performing the fifth "Rukn" (pillar) of Islam to exploit it for political and vested interests, and for publicity and disruptive ends, which is in conflict with Islamic teachings and were against the injuctions of the holy Koran and sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him). While we read in the holy Koran that (for Hajj are the months well-known, so whosoever undertakes to perform Hajj therein then let there be no obscenity nor wickedness nor wrangling in the Hajj), and while the holy Prophet (peace be upon him) says: Whoever performs Hajj, without committing obscenity or wickedness, returns as clean as he was on the day of his birth, we find that some Iranian pilgrims hide in their baggages various types of arms and daggers along with a large quantity of pamphlets, statements, and publicity material for Imam Khomeyni, which contains direct attacks on the officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and condemnation of its policies and instigation to fight against every Muslim and Arab country which does not approve the trends adopted by the Iranian revolution. Apart from that some Irani pilgrims indulge in strange activities during their stay in the Saudi territories during Hajj seasons, for instance:

1. Holding of meetings in tens and hundreds in the vicinity of the Al-Haramayn Ash-Sharifayn and making political speeches concerning Iranian revolution using loudspeakers, and causing disturbances for the praying and worshipping Muslims in the Al-Haramayn Ash-Sharifayn.

2. Raising slogans in processions going through the streets of Mecca, Al-Mukarramah, Medina, Al-Munawwarah and other holy sites of Hajj, using words contrary to the Kalamat al-Tawheed like (Allaho Al-Akbar Khomeyni Imam Allaho al-Akbar-Khomeyni Rahbir).

3. Entering the sacred mosque with light firearms which the security authorities of the Al-Haramayn Ash-Sharifayn captured several times.

Notwithstanding all this, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia endeavoured right from the beginning to deal with the situation with wisdom, old tolerance, and amicable understanding with the heads of such gatherings, and with those who supervise the Irani

Hajj affairs, sometimes at the level of the concerned agencies and sometimes through diplomatic channels between the two countries, in order to protect the Islamic bonds and prevent any pollution in the weather of good relations existing between the two countries.

In spite of all this attacks against Saudi Arabia continued through the Irani mass media and in Jumma [Friday] congregations in mosques, Tehran radio broadcast its news bulletin on Tuesday 16-10-1403. A.H. that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to allow the Irani pilgrims to perform Hajj this year, but it is creating some problems about supplies of food and shelter for pilgrims. [as received]

These are nothing but equivocations and fabrications, for the Kingdom had never prevented any Irani pilgrim, so how can one say that permission has been granted today. It is rather strange that the Irani Government denies the eagerness of the Government of Saudi Arabia to maintain the security of the state during the critical period of Hajj season, whereas the Irani agencies practice acts of suppression and massacres against its nationals in Iran under the pretext of maintaining security.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia tolerated the objectionable Iranian campaigns during last three years, in a way no other country can tolerate, with the hope that Irani officials may understand the facts. But the hurting campaigns are still continuing and mounting which expose the hidden intentions behind such allegations. We know, as the whole world knows, what psychological and economic crises Iran is suffering from because of its financial problems, so it, in fact, tries by this to prevent its pilgrims from going to the sacred Mosque, and creates unfounded pretences against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Therefore, and in view of what has been clarified before the Muslim world, the security authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wish to announce the stand of Saudi Government towards the unjust Iranian campaign in the following points:

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the Irani pilgrim within the number permitted by the circumstances pertaining to the capacity of the holy places until the completion of the arrangements which are taking place to increase the capacity in the coming years.

2. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requests all guests of the sacred mosque to respect its security and administrative rules and to abide by the Islamic injunctions given in the divine teachings, and to devote oneself for performing Hajj and nothing else.

3. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not be lenient or tolerant in taking preventive actions against anyone who tries to breach law and order or practices acts other than the Islamic principles, in order to maintain normalcy and to discharge the duty assigned to it.

We pray to Allah to enlighten our insight in order to follow his path, and to protect us from the evil of ourselves, and to keep out ummah far from temptations and dissension, to unite our kalimah (word) on the path of truth. He is no doubt all-hearing and all-responsive.

Prince Bandar Comments on Lebanese Developments

LD181054 London The Observer in English 18 Sep 83 p 1

[By Patrick Seale in London and Colin Smith in Beirut]

[Text] The chief Saudi mediator in the Lebanese crisis, Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, expects a breakthrough within the next 24 to 48 hours in the negotiations to end the fighting. But as he spoke the United States and Syria moved closer to open conflict, with U.S. warships bombarding targets inside Syrian-held areas of Lebanon and Damascus threatening to shell the American fleet in reply.

"We are very close to an agreement. Only a couple of words are holding us up," Prince Bandar said from Jidda in an exclusive telephone interview with *The Observer*. For the past few weeks he has been shuttling between Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, and Saudi Arabia in what he described as a marathon effort to find an acceptable compromise. He said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is determined to stop the "senseless killing and massive destruction."

Immediate objectives of the Saudi mediation are to secure a "cease-fire in place," to open the way for a national dialogue. All sides have assured him, the prince said, that they are ready for a cease-fire but, he added, "no one wants to appear to give ground." "We are trying to find acceptable language to describe who does what after the cease-fire." The prince was referring to the contentious problem of the future role of the Lebanese Army. Syria and its Druze allies want to return the Army to its barracks.

As for the future government and institutions of Lebanon, the prince said they would have to be "more balanced and representative" of all the communities. He stressed that President al-Jumayyil supports this view. "All Lebanon's parties and politicians, from the President downwards, feel that 'rebalancing' is long overdue. The present situation is not of President al-Jumayyil's making. He inherited it," the prince said. "We believe he can preside over the transformation. None of the parties to the conflict are questioning his personal position."

The prince said the peace plan for which he now has high hopes is basically the same plan put to him by the Syrians in Damascus last week. Looking further ahead, he said he believes it essential that Israel be the first to completely withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

As for the Western multinational force in Beirut, the prince believes it should not get further involved in Lebanon's affairs. "We do not foresee a bigger role for the force," he said.

Walid Jumblatt, the Druze Muslim leader yesterday ruled out any dialogue or compromise with President al-Jumayyil as long as the Lebanese Army continued to attack his Druze militiamen.

U.S. Middle East envoy Robert McFarlane said after meeting President al-Jumayyil in Beirut that "all hope is not lost." Beirut radio said Mr McFarlane was leaving on a tour of Arab countries in search of a solution. His task will be more difficult after yesterday's escalation of American involvement in the fighting.

A U.S. Marine spokesman said two warships had fired on targets in Syrian-held areas last night and today because they had endangered American lives around Beirut, firing on the U.S. ambassador's residence just outside the capital and on the Lebanese Defence Ministry, where there are American advisers.

In reply, a Syrian military spokesman said on Damascus radio: "If any shells from land, sea or air land in areas occupied by our forces, we will reply by shelling the source of such fire. Orders have been give in this respect."

Meanwhile, troops of the Lebanese Army inched their way forward yesterday against fierce resistance as fighting continued around the town of Suq al-Gharb, on a strategic ridge overlooking Beirut. They were again supported by the elderly British-built Hawker Hunter jets of the Lebanese Air Force which rocketed the positions of the Druze and their Palestinian allies.

Lebanese Red Cross volunteer ambulance teams, two of them young women based at the village of (Houmal Bdadoun), a few minutes drive from the front line, said they had treated 120 wounded soldiers in a 24-hour period ending 7 a.m. yesterday.

The Lebanese Army appears to be trying to secure its perimeter around Beirut with a pincer movement whereby the troops advancing southwestwards along the ridgeline from Suq al-Gharb will be met by another column fighting its way up from Damur on the coast.

A surprise development yesterday was the reappearance in Lebanon of Yasir 'Arafat.

'Increasing Intensity' in Lebanon Observed

LD182242 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Sep 83

[News and comment by Husayn al-Askari, presented by Abdallah ash-Shayi']

[Text] The intensity of fighting in Lebanon has increased amid the emergence of new crisis elements that may lead to an explosion of the situation in a more dangerous way.

The possible and the impossible are the two sides of an equation which the mediators are trying to solve in order to reach a cease-fire agreement in Lebanon as a preliminary step to dialogue between the Lebanese Government and national leaders in order to reach national harmony that would be a basis for Lebanon's salvation from the unknown. This is happening in a race with time among the conflicting parties in which each party is trying to achieve a victory in the battle to use as a card of strength and pressure in any negotiation.

It is quite clear that all the conflicting parties are trying to achieve military victory before sitting at the negotiation table. The problem that is uppermost now is the inability of each of the two parties to settle the situation, despite the intensity of the confrontation which is increasing in ferocity as well as the threat of new elements entering the battlefield. These elements could lead to escalation in the intensity of the confrontation and to losing control of the reins. This would make it impossible to stop the deterioration resulting from the entry of these elements into the battle.

In a new development, U.S. naval ships stationed near the shores of Beirut opened fire yesterday and this morning on the Druze artillery positions in the mountain. This was described by a U.S. spokesman as retaliation for the Druze artillery shelling of the U.S. Embassy area in Beirut and the Lebanese Defense Ministry headquarters where a number of U.S. military personnel are stationed. The Lebanese Air Force has been, and still is, raiding the positions of the Druze artillery. In this new development observers can see that the situation is becoming increasingly worse. Affairs have become almost uncontrollable, despite the cautious optimism of not losing hope in the probable success of the mediation efforts aimed at organizing a cease-fire in the battlefields and bringing the conflicting parties to the negotiation table in order to get out of the crisis which is threatening dangerous explosions whose consequences no one can anticipate.

Thus, efforts now are concentrated on settling the Lebanese crisis by dialogue among the parties to the conflict and abandoning the language of [word indistinct] which would mean more losses to the Lebanese territory and people if they persist in trying to control and dominate the situation.

Soviet Official Arrives Ahead of Schedule

NC181720 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA0 — Oleg Grinevskiy, chief of the Near Eastern department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, arrived in Cairo at noon today on a 4-day visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with Assistant Foreign Minister 'Umran ash-Shafi'i on bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

The Soviet official's sudden arrival came 2 days ahead of schedule. The visit was slated for Wednesday. The visit, which was made at the request of the Soviet side, is the first to Egypt by a Soviet official since 1981.

Cairo Reports Reagan-Mubarak Exchange on 'Id

NC171320 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received the following telegram of congratulations from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha: Dear President Husni Mubarak, I want to offer my sincerest and best wishes to Your Excellency and to your family as well as to all the Egyptian people on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. The American people join me in imploring God so that your nation will continue to exert its efforts to achieve prosperity, happiness, and peace in the years to come. At this time, which witnesses a conflict in the Middle East, I want to reaffirm my belief that we will succeed in our joint efforts to achieve security, stability, and peace for all the peoples of the area. Please accept my best wishes. signed: Ronald Reagan.

The president replied with the following telegram of thanks to His Excellency President Ronald Reagan of the United States: My Dear Mr President: I have gratefully received your kind telegram on the occasion of our celebration of the blessed 'Id al-Adha. I thank you, my dear friend, for the noble feelings and sincere wishes that you have expressed toward me and toward the Egyptian people, who reciprocate all your friendly people's sentiments of amity, friendship, and appreciation.

On this blessed occasion, on which we are inspired by all the meanings of sacrifice and sublime principles, we would have wished to see the peoples of our area enjoying security and stability. However, what is happening in fraternal Lebanon, such as the shedding of blood of innocent people and the inhuman aspects of destruction, is a thing that calls for deep regret and that induces us to embark on immediate and intensive moves to halt the fighting between the brothers and to bring about the withdrawal of all the foreign invading forces from all Lebanese territory to provide the legitimate government with the opportunity to exercise its authority and to take administrative steps for the sake of the unity and sovereignty of the Lebanese state.

Your Excellency Mr President, I look forward to meeting you in the near future to complete the march of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to advance this march forward so that the peoples of this sensitive area of the world — including the Palestinian people — will achieve a free and dignified life.

My dear friend, I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude for the depth of the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between our two friendly peoples in the various domains for their common good and in the service of the causes of international security and peace in the quest for a world society in which the values of righteousness, justice, and freedom will prevail.

Your Excellency Mr President, please accept my best wishes for your personal good health and happiness and for the great American people's continuing progress and advancement. Please accept my deepest respect and greatest appreciation.

Signed: Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Ghali Stresses Egypt's Policy on Palestine Issue

NC181253 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said today that Egypt is working for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He added that from this perspective, Egypt approves of all initiatives and efforts aimed at finding a just solution tothe Palestinian problem.

Dr Ghali said Egypt also approves of the appeal issued by the Geneva international conference on Palestine for holding an international conference to resolve the Palestinian issue. Dr Ghali expressed hope that all other parties concerned will follow suit. He added, in a statement to the radio correspondent, that the appeal issued by the Geneva conference will head all topics to be discussed during the UN General Assembly session scheduled to be held at the end of this week.

Ceasescu To Arrive in Cairo 17 October

NC180205 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu will arrive in Cairo on 17 October on a visit of some days to the Arab Republic of Egypt. *Al-Ahram*, which publishes this report in tomorrow's edition, adds that the Romanian president will meet with President Husni Mubarak to discuss the serious developments in the area within the framework of the consultations taking place between the two presidents.

FRG's Helmut Kohl To Arrive in Cairo 7 October

NC181800 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl is due in Cairo on 7 October on a 3-day official visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on international issues of mutual concern, developments in the Middle East situation, and the role that the FRG and the European states can play in pushing forward peace efforts in the region. The two leaders will also discuss relations between Egypt and the FRG and means to bolster them in various domains.

Communiques Round Up Military Activity

No 2,219 on Plane Crash

JN161624 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA) — Iraq has stated that its fighter aircraft today attacked Iranian forces positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield, inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment.

An Iraqi military communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command here today added that the Iraqi fighter aircraft returned safely to base.

The communique added that an Iraqi fighter aircraft yesterday evening crashed over Iranian territory. The communique held the Iranian side responsible for the safety of its pilot, Lieutenant Amjad Khalil Ibrahim. The communique also said that Iraqi forward units east of Basra attacked enemy vehicles with their weapons, hitting five excavators.

The communique added that one vehicle, one hardware stockpile, and one infantry position belonging to the Iranian forces were destroyed in the northern sector while a group of Iranian soldiers, escaping the tyranny of the Khomeyniite regime, sought refuge with one of our forward units in the same sector and were evacuated to the rear lines.

The communique said that one Iranian infantry position was destroyed in the central sector. The communique added that the Iranian regime today shelled Mandali, Qurahtu, and the (Chandri) area in Sayyid Sadiq in the northern sector, wounding one woman and three children in (Chandri), damaging five houses in Mandali, and destroying several others in Qurahtu. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,219 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The soldiers who are championing justice and principles, the heroes of glorious Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah, are pursuing their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of charlatan Khomeyni's regime. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our daring aircraft today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring accurate hits and inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. All our fighter aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God. One of our fighter aircraft yesterday evening crashed over Iranian territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of its pilot, Lt Amjad Khalil Ibrahim.

2. Our forward units sighted enemy vehicles from the enemy's engineering corps opposite their positions east of Basra. Our units pounded them with all types of weapons, hitting three excavators.

3. One vehicle, one hardware stockpile, and one infantry position were destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield. A group of Iranian soldiers, escaping the tyranny of the Khomeyniite regime, yesterday evening sought refuge with one of our forward units in the same sector and were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

4. One enemy infantry position was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. The criminals who are ruling in Iran today shelled with their artillery Mandali, Qurahtu, and the (Chandri) area in Sayyid Sadiq, wounding one woman and three children in the (Chandri) area, damaging five houses in Mandali, and destroying one civilian dispensary and damaging several houses in Qurahtu.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 September 1983

Communique No 1,220

JN171630 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Communique No 1,220 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 17 September 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While celebrating the first day of 'Id al-Adha along with our proud people and glorious Arab nation, our brave armed forces are also standing firmly against the clique of evil and rancor in Iran. These forces will remain the honest protector of Iraq's sacred soil and the honor and dignity of the Iraqis.

The results of the war actions at the front for last night and today are as follows:

1. Sighting an assembly of enemy troops opposite our forces positions in the northern sector of the front yesterday, our forward units attacked it, using various weapons, killing 39 and wounding many others.

2. Using various weapons, our forward units attacked an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the central sector of the front killing six and destroying two vehicles, two observation posts, and one infantry position. In the same sector yesterday, groups of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forces along with their weapons, fleeing from the oppression of the regime of charlatanism and falsehood in Iran. They were all safely evacuated to the rear.

3. Two were killed, two excavators hit, and one stockpile of hardware and one infantry position destroyed in the area east of Basra.

4. The criminal Iranian regime yesterday shelled Mandali, damaging an elementary school.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 September 1983

Communique No 1,221

JN181544 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1512 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes today attacked Iranian military positions and concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield as well as other military targets deep inside enemy territory. Iraqi military Communique No 1,221, issued here late this afternoon, adds that Iraqi aircraft scored direct and effective hits on the Iranian targets and set them on fire before returning safely to base. The communique indicates that forward Iraqi units pounded Iranian troop concentrations opposite our positions in the northern, central, and southern sectors. It puts the Iranian forces' losses during the last 24 hours at nine killed, several others wounded, and three infantry positions, two weapon emplacements, two heavy machineguns, and two excavators destroyed. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,221 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant armed forces are continuing their brave defense of the homeland and their battles against the Khomeyniite aggressors, inflicting further human and material losses. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Today formations of our bold fighter planes raided the enemy positions and concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield as well as other military targets deep inside enemy territory in the same sector, scoring direct and effective hits and setting fire to several enemy positions, vehicles, and equipment. All our capable fighter planes returned safely to base.

2. One of our forward units pounded a group of enemy troops opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing five and wounding others.

3. Our forward units opened artillery fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions east of Basra, killing two and destroying two excavators, two heavy machineguns, two infantry positions, and one weapon emplacement.

4. Our artillery engaged some enemy troops opposite one of our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing two and destroying one weapon emplacement and one infantry position.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 September 1983

Iranian Claims on Military Gains Denied

JN181717 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has ridiculed Iranian claims to have achieved military gains in the northern sector of the battlefield during the last 2 days. The spokesman stressed that the claims mentioned in the Iranian military communique last night on a successful Iranian offensive are only an expression of the Iranian rulers' wishful thinking.

He indicated that the military operations in this sector were confined to raids successfully carried out by the Iraqi fighter planes against the Iranian forces in this sector and deep inside their territory during which large losses were inflicted on them.

The Iraqi military spokesman emphasized that the Iraqi units in the northern sector are maintaining an iron fist over their positions in this sector and are ready to turn Kurdistan into a blazing fire under the feet of the invaders whenever they try to desecrate Iraq's soil.

President Restates Readiness for Peace With Iran

JN162016 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has reiterated Iraq's desire to esbablish peace and relations with its neighbors on the basis of justice, mutual respect, and nonaggression. Saddam Husayn said: While stressing this, the Iraqi people will always be ready to defend their sovereignty and security, regardless of the sacrifices that this will entail.

In a reply cable to President Sekou Toure, chairman of the Islamic Peace Committee, Saddam Husayn expressed Iraq's appreciation for the committee's efforts and added that Iraq welcomes any new mediation efforts which it may decide to undertake. President Saddam Husayn told President SekouToure that Iraq will secure all the necessary components to render the committee's work a success. He added: It has become clear to Islamic public opinion that the Iranian Government has been the one to insist on prolonging the war, the fighting, and the destruction. President Saddam Husayn said that the Iranian Government continues to turn a deaf ear to the sincere calls for peace.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that Iraq has worked for establishing peace and ending the bloodshed and has responded to all the calls for peace that were addressed to it and to the other party on all occasions.

In his cable, the chairman of the Islamic Peace Committee had appealed to the parties to the dispute, Iraq and Iran, to end the war, adding that this is an urgent need for all the sons of the Islamic nation.

In his cable, President Sekou Toure said: It grieves us to see the continuation of a war between two fraternal people with all the tragedies that it brings about. President Sekou Toure added that the Islamic nation views this war as a bleeding wound in the body of the Islamic nation and believes that the human, economic, and financial potentials that are being wasted in this war are not only a loss for the two fraternal countries, but also for the entire Islamic nation. President Sekou Toure added that the Islamic Peace Committee addresses a new appeal to the two parties to the dispute on this day on which the Islamic nation celebrates the blessed 'Id al-Adha so that the spirit of Islamic solidarity and brotherhood will prevail over the spirit of fighting.

Husayn Views Mideast; U.S., PLO Relations

JN170937 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2015 GMT 16 Sep 83

["Text" of interview granted by King Husayn to Tokyo NHK television network; date not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] We are now going into the Middle East question. Your Majesty, do you think that the American initiative for the Middle East solution — namely, the Reagan plan — is still alive as Mr Reagan claims?

[Husayn] The President has indicated time and again that his determination is unchanged to contribute to the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East in accordance with this plan announced on the 1st of September of last year.

[Correspondent] It seems that the Reagan initiative is now mostly directed to Lebanon in the form of increasing military involvement in the region. What do you think of the situation, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] This situation in Lebanon is most tragic and most dangerous. We have tried our utmost in the recent past, as we have tried always, to contribute towards bringing all the different elements within Lebanon together for national reconciliation, or at least to freeze their differences while foreign forces are present on their land so that the ultimate objective of a free independent Lebanon, a Lebanon that can exercise its sovereignty over all its territory, is achieved. It is heartbreaking to us to see Lebanon torn apart, probably due to outside influences as well that contribute towards that, while the country is under occupation. The foreign forces are still there. It is a very dangerous point in the entire area. And obviously, without a solution to the Palestinian problem, the area will remain, sadly, an area of turbulence with all the dangers to all within it and to world peace. But, we can but try our best to see some progress toward the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East. And I certainly hope and pray that this Lebanese crisis is dealt with adquately before it gets further complicated.

[Correspondent] Is there an actual form of American efforts now taking place in and around Beirut? Do you, does Your Royal Majesty think it is a correct form, or there might be some other way?

[Husayn] I don't know as things stand now what other way there could be. Of course, against this one must remember that the American hopes were for an Israeli withdrawal, withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, unconditionally, before the end of last year. And unfortunately, this situation has persisted and deteriorated during this period of time.

[Correspondent] Somewhat relevant to the previous question, the Jordanian-Palestinian talks on the highest level concerning the confederation, so-called confederation plan, and joint representation in the peace process, as far as we understand it, have failed. Your Majesty, what is responsible for the failure?

[Husayn] I think a combination of elements. Unfortunately, and again despite our best efforts, we see that and have seen that Israel is in the final phases of absorbing the whole of Palestine. At the same time there was this initiative by the United States, and the United States must play a very major role in any progress towards the establishment of a just and durable peace in the area if that is to succeed. Unfortunately, the first thing that happened was that Israel rejected the plan of the United States outright. And Israel immediately intensified its settlement activities in the occupied territories, almost as a direct response to the President's initiative. In addition to that, the hopes for the Israeli withdrawal and the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon did not materialize by the end of last year. All of this, I believe, contributed significantly to an erosion of the United States' credibility to a degree within the area, and probably contributed significantly to the results, where we were unable to move as we had hoped — at least, do all that we could do to recover the territory. As for Jordanian- Palestinian relations, they are so close in any event. We still hope that we can formulate in our own minds a concept of how these relations could be in the future when the territories are recovered in a way that satisfies every Jordanian and the Palestinians for all times to come. And when the time is right, the people themselves can express their opinions about this concept freely and exercise the right of self-determination.

[Correspondent] So, Your Majesty doesn't exclude the possibility of the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks for a joint representation, for example?

[Husayn] The Jordanian-Palestinian talks continue, obviously, and one thing is certain: the Jordanian commitment to them, to the Palestinian cause, and at the same time to the cause of establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

[Correspondent] What external conditions could enable such resumption of talks?

[Husayn] At the moment there are so many other problems that are occupying the thoughts of all in the area — Lebanon is really the focal point of attention at this time — but as far as we are concenred, the freedom of the Palestinian leadership which would enable it to derive its strength from its constituency from the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and elsewhere, freedom from any and every form of pressure, and freedom to act in the best interests of the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] What does Your Majesty think of the split in the ranks of the PLO, especially in the Fatah?

[Husayn] It's indeed tragic, and I think it is a result of external elements obviously, but one is very hopeful, always, for this, as has been the case in the past. The Palestinian leadership, having been recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in other words the PLO, would not compromise on its freedom to act in the best interests of the Palestinian people, and at the same time that will derive its strength from the Palestinian people themselves, and that, therefore, it can make its contribution to the resolution of the problem that affects Palestine, primarily, and affects all Arabs and affects the whole area and possibly the world. [sentence as heard]

[Correspondent] In view of a possible change of government in Israel, what would be expected towards the solution?

[Husayn] If, as we understand, the government is going to be a continuation of the previous one, I do not see that the future looks bright in terms of expectations of any positive Israeli contribution towards the establishment of a just and durable peace. In point of fact, all indications are that there will probably be an even harder position. On the other hand, we know what the rest of the world feels and it's only important now that the United States itself make its mind as to, up, as to what it could and should do to persaude Israel, in Israel's best interests as well, and to be positive and so that we can make progress towards the establishment of peace.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, what would be the realistic, positive step forward at this moment for a just and durable peace?

[Husayn] To recognize the bases that were outlined so many years ago on the 22d of November 1967 in the Security Council Resolution 242, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by war; in other words, to respect that and to respect the rights of the Palestinian people on their legitimate soil.

[Correspondent] So, in conclusion, Your Majesty: Optimistic or pessimistic in the future of the Middle Eastern (?theater)?

[Husayn] I am always an optimist; I've always been an optimist. I believe that the military will despair in (?its inability) to contribute in any form or way towards a better future which is (?its) responsibility to contribute to. As far as I am concerned, if one lives it is to accomplish a mission and that is to ensure that future generations have a better life than we have had, (?and remember as well) and we are dedicated to their cause. Therefore, one is optimistic. Despite the many dangers, despite the many obstacles, we will be relentless in our search for progress towards a just and durable peace in the area, greater stability and a life of dignity and freedom for all concerned.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, what do you expect at this moment specifically from the Japanese Government regarding the Middle East process?

[Husayn] (?Some of us are members of the family.) We have the closest of relations, we have the closest of interests, and I believe the possibility that all of us at least understand what the challenges are and what our expected positions are enables us to coordinate our efforts and form our voices in the positive way that we have in the world and afford the opportunites to have the experience to meet with the prime minister and other Japanese friends. We'd like to hear from them, and we'd certainly express our (?views as well) and brief them on the situation if the opportunity arises. And we hope that these contacts have been extremely useful for our joint efforts in what is, after all, beneficial to all of us.

[Correspondent] One additional question: Your Majesty, Jordan has been known for her firm support towards Iraq in this Iran-Iraq conflict. It is now going to be in its fourth year. What do you see the situation in prospect? [as heard]

[Husayn] From the beginning, sir, I (?believe) I have responded favorably to every attempt at mediation to end this war and to enter a dialogue. I think it can only be resolved by both sides trying to resolve the problem of definition of borders and other rights based on historic facts. And at the same time, two [word indistinct] nations not only in terms of the two countries, but in terms of Iran and her other Arab neighbors, on the basis of mutual (?respect) and noninterference in their affairs with each other. And the sooner we get to that the better it is. Iraq has been positive. Iran has not so far shown any indication that it would be, but we still hope that this will soon be achieved.

[Correspondent] If there is no prospect for peace, is Jordan going to assure the same course of support [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] There is no question about that, because Jordan is not only supporting a brother state that has always stood by us, a member of the league which (?comprises) to do so. We also are signatories to the joint defense agreement, and more than that We know that Iraq is standing there defending the entire area — not only itself, but also the rest of the Arab World — and it has a just case. So, our position is not of convenience but of (?consideration) and we stand by them.

[Correspondent] What do you see of your (?silent) states which support [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I regret that very much indeed, but they have to assume their historic responsibilities. (?That's where) that stands at the moment.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Your Excellent Majesty. Thank you very much.

Envoy in Bonn, CDU Official on FRG Mideast Role

LD161641 Hamburg DPA in German 1049 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Bonn, 16 Sep (DPA) — Jordan is hoping for a political involvement of the Federal Republic and its EC partners in the Middle East. In a DPA interview Jordanian Ambassador in Bonn Fawwaz Sharaf urged the EC governments to reflect, in the wake of the virtual failure of the U.S. efforts, that they were neighbors of the Middle East and to take measures of their own.

Bonn could play an important part here, Sharaf said. The Federal Republic "has sufficient political strength to cooperate with the EC on the formulation of a new Middle East policy." For this, however, more information is necessary. In this connection it is helpful that during his talks in Amman (from 5 to 7 October) Chancellor Kohl will be able to get a more comprehensive picture of the Middle East situation. He expects the visit to lead to more German understanding for the Jordanian and Arab position in the conflict with Israel.

The ambassador indirectly but clearly criticized Bonn's stance of supporting American Middle East policy in the main when he said: "When one's policy is related to someone else's policy this is meaningful, but when this other policy no longer exists, then it is necessary to review one's own position."

In a DPA interview, Hans Klein, foreign policy spokesman of the CDU parliamentary party, stressed Jordan's importance as a key country for a Middle East peace. King Husayn's judicious policy deserves recognition. This applies particularly to the King's efforts (which have meanwhile failed) to reach agreement with the PLO leaders on joint talks with Israel.

Klein spoke in favor of further German economic aid to Jordan, which has so far received some dm900 million in development aid (dm638 million of which are in the form of credits).

Beirut: Regime Cannot Accept 'Crippling' Plans

NC161250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] The foreign military pressures that the Lebanese Army strongly resisted last night and this morning have exposed the reasons for proposing crippling plans for a solution that Lebanon cannot accept because they constitute a danger to its unity and lead to the plot's realization. The regime placed the facts before Saudi mediator Prince Bandar ibn Sultan last night. Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam shared the regime's views, thus confirming that the unity of the Lebanese stance and the regime's rejection of proposals detrimental to Lebanon's unity are founded on a wide popular base.

It was reported a short while ago from Damascus that Prince Bandar ibn Sultan is preparing to leave the Syrian capital for home after meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

RFL Reports Possible Cease-Fire Agreement

NC191005 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] During a time when the fronts in the mountain area are witnessing the most violent battles since the beginning of the fighting, special reports said a short time ago that an agreement on a cease-fire might be reached within hours. Prince Bandar is now in Damascus and Fairbanks is in Saudi Arabia. They have contacted the Lebanese authorities to brief them on the negotiations being held on a cease-fire plan.

Beirut Reports McFarlane Departure 17 September

NC171737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] U.S. Presidential envoy Robert McFarlane left Beirut this evening, pushing the U.S. efforts to the forefront of events and turning his new shuttle tour of Arab capitals into a helping factor for the Saudi initiative, which is expected to be resumed after the 'Id al-Adha holidays and probably in the next 48 hours. A meeting was held at noon today at the Presidential Palace in B'abda. It was attended by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane, and Ambassador Richard Fairbanks. On the Lebanese side, the meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Dr Wadi' Haddad, presidential adviser for national affairs.

RFL Reports McFarlane's Return to Beirut 19 Sep

NC191303 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] U.S. Envoy Robert McFarlane returned to Beirut this afternoon. He immediately went to the residence of U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon. McFarlane said he will begin discussions with Lebanese officials as soon as he receives information from Prince Bandar.

Beirut Reports on Al-Jumayyil's ABC Interview

NC181851 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has given an interview to the U.S. ABC television network in which he said: We do not want the Americans to die for us; the Lebanese Army is prepared to die for its country. President al-Jumayyil added: The Syrians are behind everything in Lebanon. If there is an opportunity for me to meet with Walid Junblatt, the problem will be solved in 5 minutes. I do not know if the Syrians can go on saying no indefinitely.

President al-Jumayyil said: The presence of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon is part of the U.S. initiative in Lebanon. It is necessary that the U.S. flag should now fly alongside the Lebanese flag. The president went on to say: There is no need for the Marines to fight in the future because we are continuing our work to achieve political solutions. I believe that we will achieve these solutions in the near future, probably within hours or in a few days.

Replying to a question, President al-Jumayyil said: I am sure that if there is an opportunity for me to meet with Walid Junblatt, the problems will be solved in 5 minutes. Regarding the offers the government can make, the president said: I am sure that if I stand face to face with Walid Junblatt, this will enable us resolve the mountain problem. I am prepared to do so at any time because the Druze are part of this nation. In my capacity as president, it is my duty to serve everybody, including the Druze, who constitute an important part of Lebanon.

Why do not we have such a meeting? We must see who is behind Walid. It is perfectly clear that the Syrians are behind everything that is happening in Lebanon. The mountain battles are an attempt to prevent the withdrawal of all the foreigners from Lebanon. Nobody is now talking about the withdrawal of all the armies. Everybody is concentrating on halting the fighting between the Christians and the Druze and between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinians.

Asked if the Syrians say no to a cease-fire, the president replied, why no? This is the right of everybody. There is a very delicate balance in Lebanon. I know that it is a duty that I achieve an arrangement for this balance. I have a plan for this but we must stop the fighting first, which is more important.

Asked if he and his government can hold out in the fighting and the shelling, the president said: We do not think of ourselves or of our comfort; we do not think of saving our lives. We must rescue our country. Rescuing the country is more important than our life and our souls. We shall rescue it first and then build it, irrespective of who the savior is.

Salam Discusses Situation With Saudi King 18 Sep

NC181248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] [Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam today telephoned King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Salam said he explained to the

Saudi monarch developments in Lebanon and discussed the Saudi mediation. Salam expressed Lebanon's full appreciation for this mediation and for the personal interest the king shows in Lebanon.

Salam said that King Fahd expressed his concern for Lebanon and its sons, his interest in saving Lebanon from its ordeal, and helping it to reach the shore of safety. The king, he added, assured him that he will not stop exerting all efforts in this regard.

Minister Speaks After 16 Sep Cabinet Session

NC161433 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Dispatch by radio correspondent Joe Sa'adah from Presidential Palace in B'abda on 16 September — recorded]

[Text] [Sa'adah] The Cabinet session ended at 1400 today. This is the last session held by the Cabinet during the extraordinary powers period. The Cabinet used the session to complete the issuance of legislative decrees.

No official statement was issued following the session, but Information Minister Roger Shaykhani told us that President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister al-Wazzan briefed the Cabinet on the latest contacts concerning the developments in Lebanon. Here is what the information minister said:

[Shaykhani] The Cabinet met today. This is the last session before the expiry off the extraordinary powers period. The Cabinet naturally adopted some resolutions concerning the remaining legislative decrees, whose number has reached nearly 150. Despite the difficulties and the present situation in the country, we continuously studied the decrees, which will be very important for the future of the country.

On the other hand, his excellency the president briefed us on the latest political, security, and military developments. Undoubtedly, you have learned that Mr Rafiq al-Hariri left at noon today with Prince Bandar for Larnaca and then for Damascus to follow up the tasks they have been entrusted with, as well as the view upheld by the Lebanese state.

On the other hand, his excellency the president seized the opportunity to congratulate all Lebanese families — Sunnis, Shi'ites, and Druze — on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, which is a great Islamic holiday. He expressed hope that all Lebanese will benefit from the idea of the blessed Al-Adha to unify their ranks and make sacrifices for the sake of each other in a brotherly and unified atmosphere and a unified national spirit. The prime minister thanked his excellency president for the good wishes he expressed for all the Lebanese and not only for the Muslims. The prime minister expressed the same wishes of unity and common sacrifice for the homeland, especially on the eve of the 'Id.

[Unidentified reporter] The issues of services, relief aid, and urgent living needs — I imagine that the Cabinet followed up these issues today and gave them the proper attention.

[Shaykhani] The Cabinet has not neglected this subject for 1 second. Every minister is engrossed in this subject because relief aid is a very important matter. The Lebanese citizen must feel somewhat reassured and realize that the government and state are making utmost efforts in this direction.

Junblatt, Pierre al-Jumayyil on Mediation, PLO

LD182112 Hamburg DPA in German 1845 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Cologne, 18 Sep (DPA) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt has turned decisively against the current peace efforts by the Americans and Saudi Arabians to solve the conflict in Lebanon. Junblatt said this evening in the West German Television program Auslandsstudio in Cologne that such peace efforts only serve to strengthen the present government of President Amin al-Jumayyil. Junblatt said: "I will not permit Lebanon to become a state of Christian Phalangists, even if this means the end of Lebanon."

Junblatt vigorously denied the accusation of cooperating with the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat. Junblatt said: "I have no connection with the PLO. I have enough fighters of my own. And I also do not want them (the fighters of the PLO)."

In contrast, the leader of the Christian Phalangists, Pierre al-Jamayyil, said in the same program he considered "national reconciliation" to be possible indeed. The war in Lebanon is a "conflict carried in from the outside." Al-Jumayyil said: "If we are left in peace and to ourselves, I can assure you that all the problems in Lebanon will be solved within 24 hours."

The interviews were made available to DPA in advance in edited versions.

VOL: 'Arafat Reportedly Arrives in Tripoli 16 Sep

NC162150 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] It was reported some time ago that Yasir 'Arafat has arrived in Tripoli and immediately held a meeting with the Palestinian command there.

PSP Rejects 'Arafat's Military Support

JN181833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] A responsible source at the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has stated the following:

We have heard Yasir 'Arafat's support statement, in which he said that he and his forces are participating in the mountain [fighting]. While thanking him for this support, we insist that we do not need any Palestinian or non- Palestinian participation in our Lebanese national battle. We do not want anyone to bargain over us after a long absence and after a return through a narrow door in a small boat from Larnaca to Tripoli.

AFP: 600 Libyan Troops Under Junblatt Control

NC181530 Paris AFP in English 1506 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Beirut, Sept 18 (AFP) — The 600 Libyan troops placed under the orders of Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt today by Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have been in the central Lebanon Al-Biqa' plain since last summer. They were brought in to fight alongside Syrian troops during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, then pulled back to Al-Biqa', where they kept a low profile until June this year. Then loyalist members of Fatah, the main grouping within the Palestine Liberation Organisation, accused the Libyan contingent of becoming involved in the conflict within the PLO. The loyalists said the Libyans were fighting alongside dissident Fatah members and members of Ahmed Jibril's pro-Libyan Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-CG).

Col al-Qadhdhafi's announcement today came only a few days after Mr Junblatt's second visit to Libya in the past two months. The Libyan and Lebanese government's have been on bad terms since the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese accord in May, when Col al-Qadhdhafi's government called on the Arab League to introduce sanctions against Lebanon, and Lebanon recalled its ambassador in Tripoli.

Defense Minister Comments on Army's Performance

JN162005 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1750 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri by Radio Monte Carlo News Director Antoine Nawfal on 16 September in weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program — recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Your Excellency Mr Minister, we welcome you in this episode of the "It Happened Tomorrow" program. Much is being said about the Lebanese Army. The talk ranges between admiration and accusation of its being a sectarian army. This is evidence that the Lebanese Army does exist. My question is: For whom is this Army, and for whose sake is it working and fighting?

[Khuri] I am happy that I am with you in this seminar, particularly in these circumstances, so we can talk about the Lebanese Army. This is an occasion to clarify what is being said here or there on the Lebanese Army's role.

I'd like to tell you, Antoine, that it is a fundemental thing — I'd like to stress here, although it is known to everyone — that every state in the world has its own national army that protects its borders, defends the state, and preserves the safety of the people and the institutions against any usurper or aggressor as well as against anyone trying to undermine the state's security, whether they are individuals, groups, or states. Therefore, no homeland can stand without an army.

Also, there is no army without an objective. Hence, the Lebanese Army's noble and basic objective is that it belongs entirely to Lebanon and exists to defend the homeland — as I said earlier. The Army is the homeland's fence and supporter and the protector of its sovereignty and independence. It is natural that Lebanon has its own Army, whose duty is to protect the homeland and to defend its independence and sovereignty. The unnatural, strange, and disapproved thing is the tendentious campaigns that have been aimed and are still being aimed against the Lebanese Army as well as the proposals and working papers presented by some sides whose aim is to paralyze the Lebanese Army's role and, consequently, weaken the state, paralyze its institutions, and undermine its pillars.

[Nawfal] We will return to this subject later, Mr Minister. Let us talk about the Army. This Army exists and is fighting. However, what is the reality of its situation in the arena today?

[Khuri] It is natural that the Army exists, particularly since there are clashes and battles raging on Lebanese soil. This situation happened following the Israeli forces' partial withdrawal, which took place in the absence of coordination with the Lebanese Government. That is why we are witnessing this outburst in the security situation. Things deteriorated due to the participation of non-Lebanese forces and to invasions from outside Lebanon as well as through areas not under Lebanese control. This resulted in the creation of a security vacuum that must be dealt with by someone.

Of course, the Lebanese Army had positions and centers in Greater Beirut. This Army has been aware of its national duties and should have filled the security vacuums. Yet, this Army has had to rearrange and strengthen its positions in Greater Beirut, particularly in light of the prevailing political circumstances in the country, the uncoordinated partial withdrawal which embarrassed the Lebanese authority, and due to what happened in the southern suburb of Beirut prior to the partial withdrawal — and this latter incident was no coincidence at all. After that, and according to its capabilities and potentials, the Army was to carry out its duty to fill the security vacuum.

Responding to your question, I want to say that the Lebanese Army's role today on the combat axes on which it is present is to stop the clashes and the fratricide and even to stop the invasions. The Lebanese Army is not present on axes against other axes. It stands there to defend the Lebanese land, the Lebanese people, and their values. While defending the positions in which it is present, the Lebanese Army defends all Lebanon, as well as the political course set up by the regime, namely to preserve Lebanon's unity and the people's unity. It defends the Lebanese choice of trying to rescue Lebanon and the Lebanese solution [to its problems], which is based on Lebanon's unity.

Therefore, the Army stands on solid ground and enjoys firm national belief. It has indeed scored and is scoring glorious heroisms.

On this occasion, I cannot but bow in tribute to the martyrs which the national Army has sacrificed in loyalty to all of Lebanon. This Army has shown through practice that it is above disputes, hostilities, factions, and trivia. The blood of martyrs, which is being shed by the Lebanese Army, is the national crucible in which all the small differences have melted.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, you have said that the Army's task is not to seize certain axes at the expense of others, but to separate the combatants. Does this mean that the Army will remain where it is, or will continue to spread?

[Khuri] The Lebanese Army will be where it is needed. The Army's main objective is to stop the clashes and completely deter the aggressors. But the sudden and uncoordinated partial withdrawal which has taken place and the political circumstances which preceded the withdrawal have prompted the Army to do what it is doing. The main objective is to stop the bloodshed. This is a popular demand. It is the demand of all Lebanon.

It is hoped that the Army will succeed in stopping all clashes in the areas where it is now if it can, but if it becomes necessary for the Army to spread in such a manner as to ensure the defense of the areas which have not yet been affected by the clashes, or to spare other areas of more bloodshed, then it will consider that a right and duty. The Army will not fail to undertake any task to stop the current fighting.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, can we say that the Army is making progress?

[Khuri] Actually, the Army is on Lebanese, not hostile territory. Its task is not to take more positions and territories, but to consolidate its presence and enhance its capabilities strategically so as to achieve its main objective, which is to stop the clashes and deter the aggressors. On the ground, the circle in which the Army is present today is bigger than the one in which it was yesterday. Indeed, the Army bridged the gaps and repulsed the aggression against it during the past few days.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, you said that there are foreign forces fighting on Lebanese territory. Walid Junblatt denies the existence of non-Lebanese forces fighting on his side. Does the Lebanese Government have evidence proving the contrary?

[Khuri] I believe that denying participation by non-Lebanese forces in the current battles is ridiculous. This fact is known to everyone far and near. No doubt, the Lebanese authorities have categorical proof of the participation of foreign forces in this conflict.

I would like to ask you one simple and logical question: How do you explain the hundreds of millions of lira which is being spent on military hardware? Thousands of rockets are fired daily. How do you also explain the positions from which artillery is being fired — in the hands of non-Lebanese, of course? There are also the non-Lebanese dead and wounded who fell in the battles. The pictures of these men have been shown in the newspapers and other news media. The truth cannot be hidden. The survivors of the massacres in the mountain were eyewitnesses of those who perpetrated these massacres. They identified many non-Lebanese.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, without revealing any military secrets, does the Lebanese Air Force have the fighting and logistical capability to continue in the fighting, although it lost one plane today?

[Khuri] In response to your question, I would like to say first that the strength of the Lebanese Army does not lie in its numbers or equipment, but in the unity of its members — officers and men — popular awareness, and the popular base it enjoys. Furthermore, the Army and the base believe in the justice of their cause, which is to liberate Lebanon from the usurpers and covetous. More than that, the Army is ready to die for the sake of the unity of Lebanon and the Lebanese option. The Air Force is one of the weapons available to the Army.

It is no secret that the Lebanese Army was going through a phase of development in personnel and equipment. The beginning was good with regard to quality, capability, and competence.

When someone believes in his cause, he will use all the arms available to him for the sake of everything that is noble and fateful to the country, whether the arms available are many or few. He will do anything to rescue the country. As we said, the Lebanese Air Force — like the rest of the Lebanese Army's organs and forces — is in a defensive condition. This force is in a good defensive situation. the Lebanese Army and authority will spare no means to defend this homeland and its people.

[Nawfal] Mr Minister, all the mediation plans collide with the Army's role in the mountain. Do you think the Army issue will be subject to political negotiations, or must it not get involved into the political game?

[Khuri] Antoine, I'd like to tell you that the campaigns that cast doubt on the Lebanese Army and the efforts to paralyze it are not new in Lebanon. These campaigns and efforts are not aimed against President Amin al-Jumayyil's government (?alone); there wre similar campaigns and seditions aimed against the Lebanese Army's role in the past reigns. During President Camille Sham'un's reign, foreign forfces hostile to the Lebanese state at that time paralyzed the Lebanese Army's role. During the reign of President Sulayman Franjiyah, there was an intensive campaign against the Lebanese Army, accusing it of being biased. The Palestinians, backed by some Arab regimes, launched a large-scale campaign against the Lebanese Army which led to its paralysis and fragmentation, as everyone knows. the campaign against the Army continued even during the reign of President Ilyas Sarkis, who started to rebuild an army that belongs to all Lebanon. There was talk, then, about a just or unjust army. In my opinion, all these campaigns are not aimed against the Lebanese Army as much as they are against the Lebanese entity itself, particularly since the Army is the backbone of the state.

Those opposing the Army, those casting doubt about it, and those trying to paralyze and destroy it are actually rejecting the Lebanese state and denying its entity, independence, and sovereignty. In response to what is being said, I want to ask a question: What logic allows the Syrian Army, the Israeli army, the Palestinian forces, and other forces to have a role in a land that does not belong to them — while it does not allow the Lebanese Army to have a role in its own land, the graveyard of its ancestors, the playground of its youth, and the lodging place of the drops of its sweat and blood? What logic allows the Israeli army, the Syrian Army, the Palestinian forces, and other forces now fighting in the mountain to occupy the Lebanese land, while some call for the withdrawal of the Lebanese Army from its own land, although the Lebanese Army has not entered the land to occupy it but to preserve it and safeguard its people? What logic allows some not to describe the Israeli army, the Syrian Army, the Palestinian and other forces as being biased while they describe the Lebanese Army as such in order to neutralize and paralyze it?

If we just suppose — although I see that it is quite unfair and unconvincing — that the Lebanese Army is the same as the aforementioned armies, then I can see all these armies withdrawing from Lebanon. Only then might there not be a need for deploying the Lebanese Army, which will return to its garrisons. I want to stress that the presence of the non-Lebanese armies in Lebanon has forced the Lebanese legitimacy, authorities, and people to use the Lebanese Army in order to defend the land, the kinfolk, and their freedom. This is a right and a duty. That is why I am surprised by the many proposals that call for freezing the political solution or introducing a clause stating that the Lebanese Army must withdraw from Lebanese territory, where it has a right to be and a right to defend Lebanon.

[Nawfal] A last question, Mr Minister. How do the people look at the Army? Do they fear it, or do they have respect for it to the extent that all the militias would withdraw and would leave the arena for it whether through fighting or peacefully?

[Khuri] I would like to stress once again that the Lebanese Army is the army of all Lebanon. It is not a sectarian, factional, or partisan army. It is above the various factions. It is above the parties and all the communities. The best evidence of this is the names of the martyrs and the wounded, those who had been martyred during the past few days while performing their duties and while confronting the current aggression in the mountain in wake of the IDF withdrawal.

The Lebanese now feel, more than any time before, that the Lebanese Army belongs to them all, and not to only one party. I believe that the factions which remain in the Lebanese arena — and they are a handful — must now become convinced that the Lebanese Army is an army for all the Lebanese and the army that will defend every family in Lebanon. It is time for them to believe this and become convinced of it. Many have come to realize that the Lebanese Army, which only months ago had been weaker than any of the militias that are present in the Lebanese arena, has become stronger than any militia now in the Lebanese arena, thanks to the Lebanese citizens' alertness, cohesion, and the cohesion that has emerged among the sons of the Lebanese Army.

As for dealing with the foreign armies and the foreign forces which are in the Lebanese arena, this is another matter. On the rumors that are being disseminated on the Army, I would like to address not only the Lebanese people but also the entire Arab people and the Arab countries to tell them that Lebanon is a member of the Arab family and that Lebanon asks only that the fraternal Arab countries accept for Lebanon what they accept for themselves. They must not accept for Lebanon what they reject for themselves. Lebanon is a state as all other states. It has a right to exist, to be independent, and a right to liberate its territory from foreign armies and the armed forces of occupation. From this premise, Lebanon has a right to have an army which protects its honor and its territory. That is all that I have to say on the Lebanese Army to put an end to any argument that may be raised on the role of the Lebanese Army and its participation in the process of maintaining security on Lebanese territory.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Mr Minister.

UK Minister on British Troops' Role

LD160940 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0800 GMT 16 Sep 83

[By Tom McMullan, PA political staff]

[Text] British troops in the multi-national peace force in Lebanon have the right to hit back if they are attacked, Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce said today. Mr Luce, who has just returned from the Lebanon, said this response included the calling-in of Britain's six Buccaneer aircraft in the area as part of the protection for the 100-strong British contingent.

The minister, who reported to Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe shortly after his return last night gave no indication of any immediate change in British policy. He held out no prospect of an increase in the size of the British force.

"No government would deploy troops to any part of the world without giving them the right to self-defence. At any time that must be uppermost in our minds, and that right is there," Mr Luce said in a BBC radio interview.

"They have the right to self-defence. They have sometimes been caught up in crossfire. They have not been caught up as a direct target.

"The Buccaneers are there to protect them, to re-inforce their right in self-defence."

The British contingent was playing a useful role, he said. Their purpose was to support the Lebanese Government in its attempt to re-establish its authority in Greater Beirut, and ultimately in Lebanon as a whole.

It was not the British role to take part in any fictional fighting in the region, he added, but acknowledged that the troops could be at risk. This was an issue on which ministers had to make a serious judgment.

"When we first asked our troops to go there, the question of their safety position and role was carefully considered. It is constantly under review.

"One of the reasons I went there was to re-assess their position and what role they were playing."

Mr Luce said he had explained to President al-Jumayyil the extent of British commitments around the world. "There is no contemplation of changing the numbers," he said.

Army Commander Tannus Pledges Tenacious Fight

NC161857 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Sep 83

["Order of the Day" issued by Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus; date not given — read by announcer]

[Text] Military personnel: The conspiracy continues and you are the target. If you fail, the role of legitimacy will be hindered, the state of the greater Lebanon will fall, and partitioning and division will prevail. Is there anyone among you who would agree to forsake the south, the Al-Biqa', or the north, or who would agree to live in a small Lebanon?

The authors of the sectarian ministates have been unmasked. They are now fighting in order to explode Lebanon from within and to cut off a share from it. They are being helped by people from outside Lebanon who have promised to seize the remainder and annex it to their territory. Therefore, can we remain patient?

They sought help from the foreigners against us, they placed guns around us, they burned our cities and villages, and they devastated and trampled that which is sacrosanct. They have not read history. Lebanon stands as fast as a mountain. Lebanon will remain for immortality. Lebanon lives in everybody's conscience. We, the soldiers, have come from all over Lebanon to protect all the sons and all the territory of Lebanon. We will continue to fight tenaciously until we fulfill our oath so that Lebanon will servive. Long live Lebanon!

Beirut on Renewed Aerial Attacks, Shelling 16 Sep

NC161802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] A military source stated that the Lebaense Air Force this afternoon again attacked military targets in the Shamlan perimeter and the Kayfun perimeter. Security sources reported that very violent shelling is being directed toward B'abda and the perimeter of Al-Yarzah as well as Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Hadath, and Furn ash-Shubbak. Furthermore, shells are falling on the areas of Al-Warwar, Bsaba, Kafr Shima, Bulaybil, and Humal. We were informed a short while ago that shells have landed in Al-Mukallis and that a shell has fallen on the Mar Musa forest and caused a fire which was extinguished by the civil defense.

Army Occupies Kayfun-Shamlan Ridge 16 September

NC161528 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1440 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] A security source a short while ago stated that at 1630 today the Lebanese Army occupied the ridge separating Kayfun from Shamlan. The Army destroyed nine T-54 tanks that were trying to advance on Baysur.

The source added that at 1530 the Lebanese Air Force attacked groups of armed aliens east of the township of Kayfun and inflicted heavy losses of life and property on them.

We note that the Internal Security Forces Institute has come under artillery shelling; however, no casualties have been reported.

We have been informed that the Army positions within the Khaldah triangle are being subjected to intermittent artillery and missile fire. Shells are still falling indiscriminately on a number of areas on the coasts of Al-Matn and Kasrawan. Citizens are asked to be cautious.

PSP Spokesman Claims Three Planes Hit

JN161535 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] A Propressive Socialist Party [PSP] source today stated that party forces hit three warplanes of the ruling regime in Beirut. The first was downed in Lebanese territory, while the other two were forced to land in a British military base in Cyprus after being hit. The source added that in today's battles the PSP forces captured 50 members of the Phalangist army, seized 12 armored personnel carriers, and destroyed 6 tanks. He further said that the Phalangist army left behind 25 soldiers killed after it failed to advance toward Kayfun and 'Aytat.

The source noted that a large amount of desertion is taking place among the Phalangist army's ranks. Another PSP force managed to control one of the positions in Suq al-Gharb. He added that ferocious clashes are now taking place in the southern suburb of Beirut and that the combat positions have been reinforced.

The source asserted that, with their arrival in Suq al-Gharb, the PSP forces will have completed their offensive [wa akkada al-masdar annahu fi halat al-wusul ila suq al-gharb fa inna quwwat al-hizb al-taqaddumi al-ishtiraki satukmilu hujumaha].

PSP Source on Recent Phalangist 'Escalation'

JN161238 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] A responsible source of the Lebanese PSP has stated that at a time when the political negotiations are continuing to reach a cease-fire in the Lebanese mountain, the Phalangist army has begun a new, sudden military escalation using various types of weapons including planes which have bombed inhabited cities and villages in the 'Alayh area. The source added: This serious escalation shows the premeditated intention of Amin al-Jumayyil's regime to continue escalating the military situation so as to realize the Phalangists' complete hegemony and control over Lebanon, flouting all mediations and good offices to reach a peaceful solution.

The source said that the PSP fighters and the Lebanese National Salvation Front possess means of confrontation and will answer this serious Phalangist escalation in the manner they deem proper.

Army Tries To Prevent Advance on Suq al-Gharb

NC162051 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2035 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] A short while ago, a security source stated that the Army positions on the Suq al-Gharb-Kayfun axis are still being subjected to very violent shelling. The armed men and the foreigners have massed forces in attacking the Army positions that are returning the shelling in an attempt to prevent an advance by the armed men and to repulse their attack.

Ferocious battles are raging in the area coupled with violent and indiscriminate shelling that encompasses the areas of B'abda, Al-Hadath, the Khaldah triangle, Al-Fayyadiyah, and the Kafr Shima barracks. Shells are still falling on the eastern suburb. We will stay with you to provide you with the latest information.

In another development, security report states that during the night an Opel car was found near the Fiat company on Corniche an-Nahr. The car has a false license plate bearing the number 429253. Two unidentified bodies were found in the car.

Lebanese Air Force Plane Over Beirut 16 September

NC161409 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1326 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] A security source said the aircraft that flew in the Lebanese skies a short while ago belongs to the Lebanese Air Force.

Beirut Rounds Up Operations for 16 September

NC170654 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Shells and rockets continued to fall on Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Yarzi, Al-Fayyadiyah, and B'abda until 0400 today. The shelling extended to Al-Mansuriyah, Al-Mukallis, Monte Verde, Al-Matn and the Kasrawan coast, and Brummanah. Shells fell this morning on the Defense Ministry perimeter and Furn ash-Shubbak.

The Army repulsed a new offensive on its positions in Suq al-Gharb last night while its positions were exposed to shelling until early this morning. Last night the Army entered Kayfun township and took up positions in all but one quarter which the Army is now purging of armed men.

The escalation in the security situation followed a day of violent fighting that began early in the mountain areas. The Army defeated penetration attempts by armed men in the Suq al-Gharb-Kayfun axis, during which it was forced to use the Air Force for the first time in almost 10 years, destroying the gunmen's positions and their vehicles, including T-54 tanks. The confrontation ended with the Army's control over the Kayfun-'Aytat axis.

A security source said that at 1630 yesterday the Lebanese Army occupied a hill between Kayfun and Shimlan and destroyed nine T-54 tanks which attempted to advance toward Baysur. The source added that at 1530 the Lebanese Air Force attacked armed concentrations of the aliens east of Kayfun, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment.

VOL: SA-6 Batteries Located in Upper Al-Matn

NC171130 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Lebanese Air Force planes attacked alien military positions in the environs of Kayfun and Baysur three times today. The air strikes came in support of the Army, which is repulsing violent attacks on its positions.

It has been reported that the alien gunmen are using SA-7 shoulder-fired missiles against the planes. It has also been learned that SA-6 missile batteries have been moved to upper Al-Matn.

Beirut Reports Air Attacks, Shelling 17 Sep

NC171230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] For the second day in succession, the Lebanese Air Force was compelled, at 0730, to attack the concentrations of armed men in the Baysur and Kayfun areas. At 0930 the Air Force also attacked military targets in the Qabr Shmun area and destroyed military positions near 'Aytat and Shimlan.

The military escalation continued until the early hours today. Shells fell on the Defense Ministry perimeter, and in al-Hazimiyah, and al-Fayyadiyah until 0400. This morning the Dayr al-Qamar area was exposed to sniper fire. Firing was also reported in Al-Jiyah, Harat B'asir, and Barjah and shells fell on the Al-'Akkawi, Al-Ji'itawi, Nahr Bayrut areas, and on Humal, Bdadun, Bsus, Humal, Bitshay, and B'abda.

The information media report that there was loss of life and equipment in the ranks of the Army as a result of the continuing military operations. Asked about this, a military source informed us that the information repeated is inaccurate and that the Army Command is the appropriate quarter to report such information.

Beirut Suburb Shelled; Supplies Arrive in Shhim

NC171422 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] The Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and Kayfun are coming under intermittent shelling. They are answering the shelling with the appropriate weapons. The An-Nahr area in the northeastern suburb of Beirut has come under indiscriminate shelling. Shells also hit the towns of Bitshay and Wadi Shahrur, where a fire broke out near the (Katarajian) factory. Civil Defense teams are putting out the fire.

The Civil Defense announced that there are 2,555 displaced people in Shhim from the villages in Iqlim al-Kharrub. A Red Cross convoy with supplies and foodstuffs arrived today in Shhim, where the Red Cross has established a hospital.

VOL: Christians Massacred in Ash-Shuf by 'Junblattites'

NC171500 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Every day the Junblattites add a new massacre to their list. The last of these massacres was perpetrated in the township of Shwit, which is located between Al-M'ush and Wadi as-Sitt in the Ash-Shuf. A number of persons were slaughtered, including three children.

Air Force Attacks Kayfun Outskirts 17 September

NC171504 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Telephone dispatch from editorial room of NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY — live]

[Text] We have just received a report that the Lebaense Air Force is now bombing [qasf] the positions and vehicles of the gunmen in the outskirts of Kayfun. We will provide you with detailed information as soon as we receive it.

VOL: Marines Shell Syrian-Controlled Positions

NC171525 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] A U.S. spokesman in Beirut said the U.S. Marines today opened fire on military targets in Lebanon that are under the control of Syrian forces. The spokesman added that the decision was in retaliation for the shelling directed by these targets against the U.S. ambassador's residence and the Lebaense Defense Ministry, where there are U.S. advisers, as the spokesman put it.

Palestinian Bodies Found in Kayfun Hills

NC181528 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Telephone dispatch from editorial room at NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY — live]

[Text] A statement issued by the Army Command's guidance directorate a short while ago says that while the Army was pursuing the remnants of the foreign gunmen in the hills of Kayfun, a number of these gunmen were killed. After Army units had taken control of these hills, they found bodies of Palestinians who belonged to various Palestinian organizations. Most of the bodies did not have identity cards on them.

As for the bodies on which identity cards were found, they belonged to Badr 'Uthman Nawfal, born in Qalqilyah in 1964, identity card No 130, a member of a Palestinian organization; 'Atallah 'Abdallah 'Abd ar-Rahman Abu ar-Rish, member of the Fatah organization, identity card No 013582; Fawwaz Ibrahim ash-Shami, member of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine, identity card No 73661; and Yasir Tha'ir Abu al-Layl, a member of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, identity card No 013195.

Thus, the identity of the foreigners who are waging the mountain war with the object of returning to Beirut and slicing off parts of the homeland is becoming clearer and clearer.

The Army Command's guidance director also issued another statement saying that at about 0900 on 18 September 1983, the town of Jubayl was subjected to rocket fire in which no military casualties occurred. Only three civilians were killed and seven others were wounded.

The Army answered the sources of fire, which was directed from the positions of the foreigners who are interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs and causing more innocent Lebanese victims from all communities.

VOL Reports on Palestinian Reinforcements

NC171609 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Fatah dissident Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] has brought some 2,000 Palestinian gunmen to the battlefield in a desparate attempt to enter the township of Kayfun, which has been purged of Syrian and Palestinian remnants by the Lebaense Army. French reporters in Beirut cited the French forces as saying that they have spotted Palestinians in the Sabra and Burj al-Barajinah Camps. [as heard]

Reports said 1,000 Palestinian gunemn from the YAR, Tunisia, and Sudan arrived in Lebanon recently. They were supplied with Syrian arms and are now participating in the fighting on the mountain.

U.S. Ships Shell 'Hostile' Positions 17 September

NC171639 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1619 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Between 1650 and 1705, Lebanese Hawker Hunter fighter planes strafed Palestinian and Syrian positions on the outskirts of Kayfun and Baysur, socring direct hits and inflicting grave losses on Palestinian vehicles. This was followed by shelling from two U.S. warships against hostile positions in the mountain.

Beirut Radio Reports Air Force Operations

NC171713 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] At dawn today, the Lebanese Army was in control of most areas of 'Aytat township. For the second successive day the Lebanese Air Force carried out a military mission in areas which are the source of shelling of Army positions near Baysur.

Shells fell this morning on the Defense Ministry perimeter and shells continued to fall on Al-Hazimiyah, B'abda, and Al-Yarzi until 0400 today.

Army Positions Shelled; French Unit Attacked

NC172107 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2050 GMT 7 Sep 83

[Telephone dispatch from editorial room of NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY — live]

[Text] A security source reported a short while ago that Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, Kayfun, and in the Al-Hadath, Kafr Shima, Bdadun, and Humal areas are now coming under concentrated artillery shelling. The Army forces are violently answering the sources of shelling to silence them. The security source also said the primeters of the Presidential Palace in B'abda and the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi were hit by a number of shells about 1 hour and 20 minutes ago. Some shells also hit the Al-Hazimiyah area. The security source also reported that a position of the French forces in Mahallat al-Mazra'ah was subjected to a hand grenade attack at 1930 tonight. The source affirmed that no losses in life occurred among the men in the position.

RFL on Syrian Arms Supplies to Combat Axes

NC172259 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2240 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] A security report we received from the north a short time ago says that a Syrian convoy of five trucks with Syrian license plates carrying ammunition, artillery shells of various calibers, 82-mm mortars, and antitank rockets has been spotted leaving Ba'l Muhsin on a mountain road linking northern Lebanon with the Al-Biqa'. The report adds that the convoy is part of the supplies that the Syrians have been sending to the combat axes against the Lebaense Army in the mountain.

Clashes Resume; Air Force Carries Out Sorties 18 Sep

NC180517 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Armed attacks resumed this morning on the Army's positions in the mountain and the southern suburb [of Beirut]. The Lebaense Air Force has carried out several sorties since 0515 Clashes are now taking place on the Suq al-Gharb-Kayfun axis, the Hayy as-Sullum axis, and some quarters in the southern suburb. Indiscriminate shells fell this morning on some areas in Beirut and its outskirts. Shells fell on Al-Hadath, At-Tayyunah, and Badaru at 0500.

Army Locked in Battle With 'Iranian Gunmen'

NC180536 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Violent clashes are now taking place between the Lebaense Army and gunmen of the Iranian Ad-Da'wah Party in the area of Hayy as-Sullum-Ar-Ruways and some areas in the southern suburb [of Beirut]. The Army's forces are retaliating against the sources of fire with a view to silencing them.

In the meantime, the Army's positions in the mountain, particularly on the Suq al-Gharb-Kayfun axis, are being subjected to shelling from Syrian, Palestinian, and Junblattite emplacements. The Army's artillery is dealing with the aggressorts with the appropriate weapons.

At 0500 today, a formation of the Lebanese Air Force carried out reconnaissance sorties over the mountain areas to reconnoitor the Palestinian positions and Syrian artillery emplacements which are shelling the Lebaense Army.

Indiscriminate shells fell on the areas of Al-Hadath, Badaru, and At-Tayyunah at 0500 today after a night of alien attacks on the Army's positions in the mountain and Khaldah and shelling of Al-Hadath, Al-Antuniyah, Al-Hazimiyah, and B'abda. The Army's positions retaliated against the sources of fire in 'Alayh, Bhamdun, and Salima to silence them.

Clashes Reported in Beirut; Marines Retaliate

NC180633 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0758 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] We have just received the following report:

Clashes occurred at 0715 this morning. The clashes extended from At-Tayyunah to As-Sayr. Security sources explained the incidents in the southern suburb [of Beirut], noting that clashes took place in the area of Mar Mikhayil and the flour mills, which were subjected to fierce shelling.

The Army's positions in the post office and Sinnin area were exposed to heavy shelling. They retaliated violently and silenced the sources of fire.

In another development, the U.S. Marines spokesman said that the Marines' positions in the southern suburb opened fire at midnight yesterday in retaliation for shelling. The spokesman told UPI that the Marines used machineguns and light weapons in dealing with the sources of fire.

U.S. Warships Bombard Syrian Positions

NC180653 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] U.S. warships in Lebaense territorial waters have answered the Syrian warning — which was issued after two U.S. warships bombarded artillery emplacements in areas under the control of the Syrian forces — again by bombarding these positions after midnight last night. The U.S. Navy spokesman said yesterday that the destroyer *John Rogers* and the warship *Bowen* fired 5-inch or 125-MM gun salvos on Friday night and Saturday morning after the shelling damaged U.S. positions. The spokesman added that the vicinity of the U.S. ambassador's residence and the Lebaense Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi were the target of the shelling in addition to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

The spokesman further said that some U.S. officers are working with Lebanese officers at the Defense Ministry. He added that the strength of the shelling diminished greatly after the two U.S. warships' retaliation. He declined to reveal the number of salvos which the U.S. naval forces fired or when they were fired. He said that the Marines were put on maximum alert in the Beirut area from midnight to 0230. He explained that this was a precautionary measure.

This is the second time that the U.S. fleet has responded to shelling. However, it is the first time that the fleet retaliated for shelling of the Defense Ministry. The fleet retaliated initially because of the shelling on the Marines.

It is not known why this report was kept secret until yesterday afternoon. AP said that the two ships were so far from the shore that their shells were mixed in the whirlpool of other shells. REUTER observed that this is the first time that the U.S. artillery shells have been fired at areas under the control of the Syrians.

The spokesman said that the U.S. Marines barracks was quiet yesterday afternoon.

VOL: Syrians Station Artillery in Shikka

NC180912 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Information available to the Voice of Lebanon says that the Syrian Army has emplaced new heavy artillery in the Shikka area. The Syrian Army has also emplaced missile launchers in the Kafr 'Abidah area in the Al-Batrun district to shell the Jubayl area after it had been previously shelled by the Syrian emplacements in Al-'Aqurah.

In special information, the Voice of Lebanon security affairs correspondent adds that Syria has asked [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah to initiate a battle in the northern area through the Al-Maradah gunmen to widen the scope of the clashes and to give the fighting a purely Lebaense character to enable Syria — through this development — to intervene in the fighting under this cover. However, our correspondent says that President Franjiyah rejected this Syrian request. At 0915 the Jubayl coastal area came under Syrian artillery fire. Our security affairs correspondents counted 40 rocket projectiles that landed in this area and that were fired by a Syrian rocket launcher stationed near the Al-Batrun hospital.

U.S. Spokesman Denies Dogfight With Syrian MIGs

NC180853 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0835 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Excerpt] According to an AP dispatch just received, U.S. Navy spokesman Major Robert Jordan denied reports that U.S. aircraft had engaged in a dogfight with Syrian aircraft. The spokesman said U.S. aircraft did not engage in a chase with Syrian MIG fighters over central Lebanon. He added that U.S. warplanes carried out reconnaissance flights only.

The spokesman went on that the Marine unit in the airport perimeter, which is naturally functioning within the multinational force, was engaged in fighting with light arms throughout the night at its base in Beirut International Airport.

Army Destroys Artillery Emplacements in Al-Matn

NC181031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Excerpts] According to security sources, the Lebanese Army has shelled and destroyed two artillery emplacements in the Bshillima area in northern Al-Matn. The ammunition in the two emplacements burned for 30 minutes.

The artillery and rocket shelling on the area of Al-Jubayl resulted in killing five persons and wounding several others. About 40 shells and rockets fell on the area.

The indiscriminate shelling on the suburbs of Beirut and northern Al-Matn has been resumed. Shells fell on Ad-Dawrah and Nahr al-Mawt. Ten shells fell on Burj Hammud setting cars and buses ablaze. Four persons were wounded. Shells fell also on Sinn al-Fil, Bayt Miri, and Al-Mansuriyah. A rocket launcher shelled the area between Al-Mukallis and Al-Mansuriyah causing fires. The civil defense rushed to extinguish them.

National Salvation Front Shells Jubayl Airport

JN181143 Damascus Doemstic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] A responsible military source in the Lebanese National Salvation Front has stated that the National Salvation Front's artillery units intensively shelled the newly established military airport in the Jubayl area today in response to the barbaric raids the Lebanese Air Force has carried out the past 3 days against populated villages in the 'Alayh area. The emplacements in the above mentioned airport were destroyed, and fires were seen blazing in all parts of the airport.

RFL Reports 'Massacre' in Majdalayya, 'Alayh Area

NC181220 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1212 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Another massacre has been added to the series of Syrian-Palestinian atrocities against Christian inhabitants in the central mountain. The latest massacre was the slaughter of 18 Christians by Syrian-socialist elements in the town of Majdalayya in the 'Alayh district.

Air Force Bombs Kayfun Township Area 18 Sep

NC181236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] The Army's artillery today destroyed a rocket launcher and an antiaircraft gun in Mansuriyat Bhamdun. Fire broke out in an annunition depot in the area.

A security source said later that the Lebanese Air Force bombed at 1215 the gunmen's positions in the area which were shelling the Army's positions. The Air Force also bombed between 1210 and 1230 the area of Kayfun township, an antiaircraft gun emplacement, and a concentration of gunmen between the towns of Baysur and Majdalayya.

Barja Shelling Forces Citizens To Leave

NC181240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Shelling of the Barja area has resumed forcing the inhabitants to leave for the Shhim area. Reports say that the number of displaced persons has risen to 40,000 citizens.

Shelling of Army Positions, Southern Suburb Eases

NC181613 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Security sources have reported that the intensity of the shelling of the southern suburb and of Army positions in the mountain and Khaldah triangle has eased. The sources said that the areas of Al-Hazimiyah, B'abda, and al-Hadath were subjected to intermittent shelling this afternoon.

Army Checks Offensive; Syrian Overflights Noted

NC181634 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] The Lebanese Army has beaten off a Syrian-Palestinian attack launched from Baysur in the direction of Kayfun, inflicting grave losses on the attackers after destroying seven vehicles of the attackers. In another development, Syrian warplanes overflew the north on reconnaissance sorties. It is worth noting that it is the first time that the Syrian Air Force has made such sorties over the north since the Israeli invasion.

Army Positions in Ash-Shiyah Shelled 18 Sep

NC181918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Military sources have reported that Army positions on the Ash-Shiyah route were subjected to shelling at 2000, especially near the post office. The Army responded to the sources of fire and silenced them. Security sources have reported that the town of Dayr al-Qamar has been subjected to sniper fire since 1930 today. One woman was wounded in the shelling.

Beirut Airport Employees Exempted From Curfew

NC181930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] The Army Command's guidance directorate has issued the following statement: Further to the Army Command's curfew decision, employees of Beirut International Airport are exempted from the provisions of the decision.

Suq al-Gharb Attacked 19 Sep; Clash With Syrians

NC190411 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A military source stated a short while ago that Suq al-Gharb is being subjected to a violent attack from the direction of 'Alayh. The Lebanese Army is repelling the attack, inflicting heavy losses on the attackers. Fires are seen among the attackers.

The Lebanese Army positions at the Khaldah Road junction and in the Radio Orient area are still being subjected to artillery shelling. The Army is returning the fire. Shells have fallen on the airport's runway near the Marine positions.

Meanwhile, limited clashes have been reported between Army positions and Syrian forces in the 'Uyun as-Siman area. The Army answered the sources of fire with all kinds of weapons, silencing them.

Air Force 'Participating' in Repelling Attack

NC190415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0403 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A military source has reported that Lebanese Air Force planes are participating in repelling the armored attack from 'Alayh toward Suq al-Gharb.

Army Repels Attacks, Captures Palestinians

NC190707 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A military source has said the following: Since dawn today armed groups composed of the Abu Musa group, the PFLP-GC and the PSP have been waging an armored offensive against Army positions in Suq al-Gharb from the Kayfun axis and from the 'Alayh-'Ayn ar-Rummanah axis. The Army repulsed the two attacks and is now carrying out a counteroffensive in the two axes. The Army inflicted heavy losses in the ranks of the attackers and captured some armed Palestinians.

Syrian launchers fired rockets toward the Jubayl area at 0655 and at 0815. No losses were reported. Some shells fell in Kafr Shima at 0815 today.

Air Force Destroys Targets in Various Areas

NC190747 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0738 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A military source reported the following: The Lebanese Air Force attacked two tanks in Mutall Shimlan, two vehicles in Kayfun Heights, an armed men concentration west of Kayfun, and one Syrian vehicle in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah. The targets were destroyed.

U.S. Ship Shells Positions in Mountain Area

NC190918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0912 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A security source said a U.S. warship off the Lebanese coast has been shelling positions in the mountain area for about 5 minutes in retaliation for the shelling of Army and Marine positions.

Meanwhile, a security source said that at about 1100 a shell fell on the Al-Jammal Building in Corniche al-Mazra'ah, hitting an unoccupied floor and causing only material damage.

Several Areas Experience Shelling 19 September

NC190925 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0919 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] The Al-Hazimiyah, B'abda, and Al-Hadath areas are coming under violent artillery shelling. Shells caused a fire in the Al-Hazimiyah area and civil fefense personnel are extinguishing it.

U.S. warships are still shelling positions in the mountain, as we reported earlier, in retaliation for the shelling of Army and Marine positions.

Red Cross Convoy Enters Dayr al-Qamar 19 Sep

NC191000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0952 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A civil defense source has indicated that a Red Cross convoy with the participation of the civil defense entered Dayr al-Qamar 5 minutes ago. The convoy is composed of four vehicles carrying foodstuffs and six ambulances carrying medicines.

Army Repulses Attackers in Suq al-Gharb

NC191056 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1044 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] The Army Command's guidance directorate has issued the following statement: Army forces in the Suq al-Gharb area are still repelling the attacks they have been exposed to since this morning. The Army inflicted great losses in life and equipment in the ranks of the attackers, forcing them to retreat and to deploy new forces to reorganize their units, which were weakened and have low morale.

VOL Reports Syrian-PLO Contact on Suq al-Gharb

NC191251 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Adding further to the Lebanese military spokesman's denial that Suq al-Gharb has fallen to the socialists, security reports just received by the Voice of Lebanon say that a contact took place between the Palestinian military commander on the Suq al-Gharb axis and the Syrian Command in Shtawrah, during which the commander said: We have been deceived. He added: They cleared the road for us to reach one of the combat axes in Suq al-Gharb, but all of our fighters fell into an ambush. He said: Approximately 100 armed men were killed and our vehicles were destroyed. We are in bad shape.

Two Tanks Destroyed in Mountain Battle

NC191252 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A security source indicated a short while ago that a tank was destroyed on the 'Alayh-Suq al-Gharb axis and another tank and transport vehicle were destroyed on the Kayfun-Suq al-Gharb axis.

Damascus: PSP, Amal Fighting Together in Lebanon

JN191128 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese PSP said today that an understanding has been reached between the Amal Movement and the PSP on joint military confrontation of the Phalangist authorities. The source added that the forces of the Amal Movement and the PSP have been in one trench since this morning, fighting the Phalangist army in the Kayfun, Suq al-Gharb, and Abysur areas, inflicting losses on this army and resolved to defeat it.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly South 19 September

NC191256 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1247 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Israeli aircraft flew over the south at 1400 today and then turned north.

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables Al-Asad on Lebanon

JN181036 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] In Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following cable from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1 September Revolution on in Libya:

We have decided to place the Libyan Arab forces and all their war means at your disposal. These forces are at the disposal and under the orders of the Syrian Command as of midnight on Sunday, 18 September 1983.

Military Spokesman on Returning Fire in Lebanon

JN171747 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

Referring to the statement issued by the U.S. military spokesman announcing that the U.S. fleet present off the Lebanese coast has shelled the Syrian forces locations in Lebanon, we stress that any fire [rimayah] directed at our forces locations from land, sea, or air will be answered by shelling the sources of fire.

Orders to this effect have been issued to those concerned.

Damascus on Shelling, Air Activity in Lebanon

JN180841 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] In Lebanon, Beirut reports today confirmed that the Phalangist Army positions in the mountain, especially on the Suq al-Gharb-Kayfun axis, are being subjected to heavy artillery shelling from the Progressive Socialist Party forces' gun emplacements in the area. At 0500 this morning, the planes of the Phalangist Army circled over the mountain areas where the fighting was raging.

UK Aircraft Participation

JN180717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Nicosia — News reports in Nicosia yesterday confirmed a western diplomatic report that the aircraft which participated in the barbaric air attack against the nationalist forces' positions in Lebanon were British and not Lebanese aircraft. These reports caused a strong resentment among the Cypriot popular quarters and were denounced by all the political parties and organizations in Cyprus.

The news reports mention that a British spokesman admitted that a squadron of British Hawker Hunters had taken off from the British military base for a destination which has not been specified. However, the spokesman said that this destination may be Lebanon.

Reportage on Saudi Mediation Contacts in Damascus

Khaddam, Prince Bandar Meeting

JN161250 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus —live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Saudi Envoy Prince Bandar ibn Sultan returned to Damascus [from Beirut] at dawn today. He then went to meet Foreign Minister Khaddam. A short while ago, Prince Bandar returned to his place of residence where he told reporters that he would return to Saudi Arabia later today. The prince refused to answer any questions saying: The problem needs more consultations. He refused to answer a question on whether he was optimistic or not. There was nothing on his face to indicate any optimism.

This morning, Walid Junblatt chaired a meeting of the Lebanese National Salvation Front's [NSF] coordination committee.

I have learned that Marwan Hamadah has contacted the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and told him that the NSF considers the escalation of the situation by the Lebanese Government and the use of the air force to bomb inhabited cities and villages a very serious development and that the NSF finds itself forced to take the appropriate measures to answer this escalation.

Thus, the atmosphere of optimism which appeared last night has disappeared. The word now is for the gun. The NSF holds the Beirut government and the Phalangist Party responsible for the negative response to the good offices to reach a cease-fire. It has not been announced yet that these good offices are going to continue.

Junblatt Meets Prince Bandar

NC161522 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Damascus, Sept. 16 (AFP) — Militant Druze Leader Walid Junblatt today met here with Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, the Saudi mediator in the Lebanese conflict, sources said here.

Saudi businessman Rafiq al-Hariri and former Lebanese minister Marwan Hamadah, a close aid to Mr Junblatt, were also reported to have attended the meeting.

There were no details on this latest round of Saudi efforts to arrange a ceasefire between Lebanese factions.

Prince Bandar yesterday met Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

The Saudi envoy arrived here earlier today for a three-and-a-half hour meeting with Syrian Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Saudi Envoy Leaves Damascus

JN161807 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Telephone dispatch by Monte Carlo radio correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris — live or recorded]

[Text] Since Saudi envoy Prince Bandar ibn Sultan's return to Damascus from Beirut early this morning, intensive contacts and talks have been underway. Pessimism prevailed over these contacts and talks this afternoon after the Lebanese regime rejected the Saudi proposals for the third time, and after it resorted to military escalation translated by the Lebanese Army's operations on the ground, during which the Lebanese Army used warplanes. Pessimism reached its maximum when Prince Bandar told the press that he will return to Saudi Arabia for more consultations.

After he was informed of the Lebanese regime's rejection of the proposals, Walid Junblatt presided over a meeting of the coordination committee of the Lebanese National Salvation Front. After the meeting, a statement was issued by the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in which the PSP viewed the use of the Air Force as being a serious escalation which shows the premediatated intention of the Lebanese regime to pursue the military escalation and undermine the the good offices currently being exerted to reach a peaceful solution. The PSP denied the presence of non-Lebanese forces, other than the PSP forces, in the positions, villages, and cities that were strafed by the Lebanese warplanes today.

Shaykh Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Damascus from Beirut and immediately met with Prince Bandar who had met with Foreign Minister Khaddam. Prince Bandar and Shaykh al-Hariri then left for a meeting with Walid Junblatt. The meeting was attended by Marwan Hamadah who had informed the U.S. ambassador in Damascus this morning of the seriousness of the situation.

After this meeting, Prince Bandar expressed optimism fraught with extreme caution when he told the press: I must be optimistic regarding the possibility of ending the tragedies and killings in Lebanon and His Majesty King Fahd has given instructions to stop the bloodshed as soon as possible. He added: There is great hope in achieving this. After holding several important contacts, Prince Bandar told the press: I have decided to postpone my departure for some time.

The pessimism which prevailed has also been corroborated by the intensity of the fighting today and by the many military communiques that were issued by the command of Walid Junblatt. The lates communique, issued a short while ago, stated that the PSP air defenses had hit four Lebanese aircraft. The communique said that the aircraft strafed civilian areas for more than 1 hour and used U.S.-made splinter bombs. The communique said that the Lebanese Army, using large forces and backed by a tank company, advanced toward 'Aytat and Kayfun and that the PSP forces clashed with them in a fierce battle which is still raging.

The communique added that the PSP forces succeeded in controlling all the axes and that they had advanced toward Suq al-Gharb and seized 12 personnel carriers, 6 tanks, and that the Lebanese Army left behind 25 killed. The communique said that 50 Lebanese soldiers were taken prisoner, some of whom are wounded and had been rushed to hospitals.

In the Khaldah-Radio Orient, the Lebanese Army tried to establish a rear supply line and the PSP forces confronted the Army and destroyed the excavators that were carrying out digging operations there.

Lastly, a private source told me that Yasir 'Arafat arrived yesterday in Larnaca and that he is trying to commission a small vessle that will take him to Tripoli, in northern Lebanon, tonight.

I was informed at this moment that Prince Bandar has really left Damascus for Saudi Arabia and that he had told the press that he will return to Damascus on Sunday. As for Shaykh Rafiq al-Hariri, he is still in Damascus.

Mediator May Return

LD181103 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1036 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Damascus 18 sep (KUNA) — Well informed Syrian sources have said that Saudi mediator Prince Bandar ibn Sultan might arrive here later today to follow up a Saudi mediation aimed at bringing the sides of the conflict in Lebanon to an agreement.

Prince Bandar left here last Friday and returned to Saudi Arabia.

Before that he directed discussions with Syrian officials, Special American envoy Robert McFarlane and the leader of the Lebanese Socialist Party, Mr Walid Junblatt.

Today in London it was alleged that Prince Bandar said that he expected that an agreement between the conflicting sides in Beirut to be reached within 48 hours.

The sources did not want to give more details to KUNA.

Al-Asad Condoles Junblatt on Arslan's Death

JN182046 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent the following cable to Walid Junblatt:

Mr Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party. We were very grieved to hear of the death of Amir Majid Arslan. While sharing your sorrow over the loss of the great leader and extending to you heartfelt condolences, I affirm to you Syria's firm stand in support of the Lebanese National Salvation Front and the other national Lebanese forces as they struggle against the Israeli invasion and wage a battle ot liberate Lebanon from aggression and preserve its unity and Arabism.

May God have great mercy on the deceased. From God we come and to Him we will return.

Damascus Reaffirms Government's Stand on Lebanon

JN181345 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Syria is not one of the banana republics controlled by the United States. Neither is it a booty or an open space on which the Americans can go on rampage and do what they like. Syria is the cause, the stand, the decision, and the eternal pan-Arab mission. It is the pioneer of Arab struggle against the enemies of the [Arab] nation. Syria has been and will remain the main defender of the nation's right to determine its destiny and choose its course. Threats of aggression from this or that enemy will not change this fact. Syria has proven the truth of its stand in the honorable and heroic battles it has waged against the Zionist enemy, which is equipped with the most sophisticated U.S. weapons. Syria has not weakened, but has remained firm and solid like a lofty edifice. The enemies cannot make Syria kneel down or abandon its solid struggle stand.

Yesterday the U.S. military spokesman boasted that the U.S. fleet off the Lebanese coast would shell the Syrian forces' positions in Lebanon. The spokesman intended to use this boasting to address a warning to Syria so that it would stop supporting and assisting the nationalist forces in Lebanon that are repulsing the attacks of the army of the Phalangist regime, which is linked with the United States and Israel. But Syria has announced and is announcing — and it has affirmed and is affirming — that it will adhere to its stand in supporting and assisting the nationalist forces. It will not retreat from this stand under any circumstances. This is because such a retreat would encourage the United States not only to spread its military presence on Lebanese territory but also to adopt more aggressive steps in order to turn the Arab region into a U.S.-Israeli protectorate.

The Syrian military spokesman replied to the U.S. military spokesman's boastings by saying that any firing on our forces' positions from the ground, sea, or air will necessarily lead to the shelling of the sources of that shooting. Orders to this effect have been given to the competent quarters. Inasmuch as it reflects Syria's solid national stand against U.S. aggression, this firm answer emphasizes a pressing need to reach a unified pan-Arab strategy to which all the struggling forces in our Arab homeland should contribute in order to face U.S. agression, which has entered a serious phase with the intensification of U.S. military presence in Lebanon and its territorial waters.

As all indications show, the United States has moved from the phase of threatening to use force to the phase of actually using this force. When the U.S. Administration gives the Marines in Beirut the right to directly request the support of components of the U.S. fleet in Lebanese territorial waters, this very clearly means that the U.S. political decision to wage aggression is now in force and that matters are now in the hands of the militarists who are participating in the aggression campaign. They are to act in the field on the basis of this decision. Here lies the danger.

We wonder where all of this conceit, arrogance, heightening of tension, and spreading of the war atmosphere in the region will lead. This is the question that the United States must answer before embarking on a reckless adventure which would threaten the future of peace and security in the region and, in fact, in the whole world. Syria warned 3 days ago of the dangers which would result from the U.S. escalation of its aggressive policy. But the United States has asserted through the statement by the U.S. military spokesman that it wants to push matters toward a conflagration. This has prompted the revolutionary leadership in Arab Syria to issue an order to its forces to shell the sources of the fire directed against their positions.

The United States will make a grave strategic mistake if it thinks that our country will submit to threats and aggression, and thus become an easy morsel in its mouth. Syria has an enormous struggle asset. It is strong through its absolute faith in the justice of its stand and through the support of the masses of its people and nation. Syria is fully confident that because it is defending the cause of the nation and sacrificing everything for the sake of asserting the nation's right to sovereignty and respectable life, the support of honest people among the forces of justice and freedom will increase. This is why Syria firmly believes that victory will be its destiny and the fruit of its struggle.

ATH-THAWRAH Reiterates Stand on U.S. Policy

JN190800 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 19 Sep 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria's Steadfastness Is the Secret of Its Strength," the newspaper *Ath-Thawrah* says: When Syria announced that it would not succumb to blackmail or intimidation, that it would not renege on its principled stands, and that it would not relinquish any national or pan-Arab rights, Syria knew that the path it was treading was not an easy path; that it would face various political, economic, and military pressures; and that it might be exposed to a new aggression. However, Syria was aware that it was strong enough to adhere to its principles and to defend right; that its national and pan-Arab choice for the path of struggle at this stage was a historic decision made when the imperialists and Zionists imagined that the deteriorating, dismembered Arab position would suffer further collapses and deteriorations, and that the Arab nation was liable to fall entirely into the trap of surrender.

Syria's stand was an exception. Syria imposed its stand on events, strong in its adherence to principles and revolutionary in its reliance both on the masses and on the aspirations and hopes that Syria embodies. Syria's position was an expression of its adherence to right to the Arab cause, and to every grain of Arab soil. Hence the various forms of escalating pressures against Syria. However, these pressures will not succeed in budging Syria an inch from its principles.

Ath-Thawrah adds: If the United States imagines that it can use its military intervention in Lebanon and its provocative actions against the Syrian forces there to weaken Syria's position and force it to succumb and offer concessions, we advise them to give up these illusions. This is because Syria, which clearly and boldly announced that it would not bargain, put its words into action after declaring that it would return any land, sea, or air fire directed at our forces' positions. The United States should understand this message. It should realize that imposing a military solution on Lebanon means escalating the situation to the extent that there is comprehensive danger and a threat to world security and stability.

ATH-THAWRAH On Readiness To Repulse Attack

JN180733 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Is Determined To Repulse Any Aggression" *Ath-Thawrah* says: Once again the ruling regime in Beirut is resorting to military escalation in a new attempt to cover up for the big defeat that its forces and the Phalangist gangs are sustaining in the battlefield. Once again this regime is enlistingthe help of the United States, which has instructed its Mediterranean fleet to shell the nationalists' positions in the mountain even though U.S. congressmen have called for the Marines' withdrawal from Beirut within 90 days, in accordance with a law on the powers of declaring war that was issued in wake of the Vietnam war.

Ath-Thawrah adds: The expansion of the U.S. fleet's area of shelling, its participation in the war of annihilation that the Phalangist rulers are waging against the Lebanese people, and its attempt to expand the scope of its shelling in order to cover new areas, are very serious developments in the course of the Lebanese war. This may lead to a more comprehensive confrontation, the consequences of which will primarily be shouldered by the Reagan Administration because its actions indicate that it is seeking a wide-scale military adventure in the Middle East. Will the United States then be ready to assume responsibility for further grave consequences?

Ath-Thawrah concludes: Syria has the right to defend itself and to give orders to its forces to reply to any attack against them, irrespective of the source of this attack. When it warns the United States of the consequences of its military involvement in Lebanon, Syria proceeds from specific international components; from its complete commitment to its national and pan-Arab interests; and out of its extreme concern for Lebanon's unity, Arab affiliation, and the achievement of a comprehensive political solution based on national accord.

Nicosia Embassy Statement on U.S. Intervention

NC161738 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1630 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] The Syrian Embassy in Nicosia issued a statement today in which it accused the United States of climaxing its political and military intervention in Lebanon. The statement draws the attention of world public opinion to the dangers arising from a direct U.S. military intervention in Lebanon, a fact which — the statement adds — will seriously endanger peace in the area as well as internationally.

The statement also mentions that Syria reaffirms its legal right for self-defense in case its forces suffer any attack and reiterates its strong support to the Lebanese masses and their national forces.

Chief of Staff Levi Interviewed on Lebanon
TA172043 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky at the former's office; date not given — videotaped]

[Excerpts][Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, it has been 2 weeks since the IDF evacuated the Ash-Shuf Mountains. Was the IDF surprised that the Druze demonstrated their superiority so quickly in the Ash-Shuf area and infiltrated terrorists along with them into the area?

[Levi] To my regret, this process had been predicted. I am saying this regretfully because we did our best to coordinate our pullout and to reach arrangements before this predicted war broke out. It was also predicted that this war would be cruel and even today we cannot tell for certain where it will lead and what its consequences will be. There were various assessments regarding the pace, strength, strategies and tactics which would be adopted by the sides but nothing regarding the process itself as it evolved.

[Shlonsky] What about the terrorists?

[Levi] To my regret, as far as the terrorist and Syrian influence is concerned, these elements were not taken into consideration or were not sufficiently contemplated. Prior to our redeployment all talk was about the deployment and its effective date and they [not further specified] may have probably found it difficult to grasp that the redeployment would also take itstoll in this sphere. More than once I said publicly that the strengthening and return of the terrorists and the rise in Syrian influence would be one of the consequences of our redeployment.

[Shlonsky] Do you think the expected return of the terrorists to the region could not have been prevented?

[Levi] I say that it could have been prevented and we did our best on this score. This was only possible, however, on the basis of an arrangement which should have been directed by the Lebanese Government because the Lebanese Druze demanded it from their government and not from us since we were leaving the area. To my regret, time was wasted and sufficiently strenuous efforts were not made and, perhaps, the illusion was also created that if we were all the time on the verge, as it were, of an arrangement we would continue to stay there and this indecision may have ultimately led to a fiercer outbreak.

[Shlonsky] How does the IDF plan to tackle this problem at present, the problem of the terrorists in Ash-Shuf and perhaps the return of thousands of them to Beirut?

[Levi] The IDF has to tackle the problem of terrorists all the time. The principles of the war against the terrorists are immutable: We have to fight them wherever they are and we will also do that in the area they penetrate if they infiltrate places or in such numbers that allow us to deal with them without becoming a party to the internal Lebanese war. I believe that we will indeed be able to deal with this.

[Shlonsky] Are the IDF's daily patrols in the area beyond the Al-Awwali River part of the IDF's battle against the terrorists?

[Levi] This gives rise to a somewhat bizarre question which was part of our plan. I would like to remind you that we predetermined that unless other decisions were made the line we would deploy along would not be a closed one. When I say that it would not be a closed line, it seems to me that it would be unwise to close it only to us. Just as it is open to Lebanese inhabitants and to various bodies operating in the region, it must be open to provide for the security of our troops, not necessarily in stationary positions.

[Shlonsky] Fifteen months after the Lebanese war, it can almost be said with certainty that a large part of the war's objectives were not attained, such as a new order in Lebanon, the destruction of the terrorists' infrastructure [words indistinct]. Do you regard it as a failure?

[Levi] If the goal was to kill all the terrorists, then this objective was not attained, but I do not think that was the goal. If one refers to the destruction of their infrastructure, even their current return — and as I said, what we are witnessing now is not the last word on our part, either — in no way means a return to the parameters, strength and infrastructure they had before, not even in this area. This is notwithstanding the fact that in other areas there is no resemblance whatsoever to the previous kingdom of terrorists — a kingdom without any obligations but with all the rights of a monarchy.

[Shlonsky] In view of your description of the situation, would you say that the IDF may deploy along the Al-Awwali River for years?

[Levi] I would not set any time frame here regarding the duration and venue of our presence in Lebanon. I would say that there is a strong connection between our presence and the establishment of some kind of security infrastructure which would guarantee all the elements of Israel's security in general and those of northern Israel in particular. This infrastructure may be attained through various means. One of those means — that is, the agreement with the Lebanese Government — is at present not that strong and solid. It cannot yet be declared dead, however, and there are other ways to solidify the combined interests of all the elements remaining in the region in a way that would not necessarily call for a presence or a massive presence in the area. Therefore, when we reach that point that will be the time when the IDF's presence in Lebanon is no longer necessary.

[Shlonsky] Are you talking about a plan other than the arrangement with the Lebanese Government? Could you elaborate?

[Levi] What I am saying is that there are various plans. These are not detailed plans but rather based on a viewpoint and on the fact that most inhabitants of the region are to varying degrees interested in not having terrorists penetrating the area and taking positions there because a terrorist presence first and foremost means the destruction of the place they are occupying.

[Shlonsky] What about the claims that Israel has abandoned the Christian Phalangists and has gone on to absolutely support the Druze? Do you agree with these assessments?

[Levi] I have not heard such claims. I can also assume that there are claims to the contrary. Our interest is to have positive relations with most of the population of a neighboring country. Our basic interest — if Lebanon were a country with a central government — could have merely been to have such relations with the government and, consequently, to have good security relations in the sphere I am in charge of at least. This process does not seem certain at present, however, and that is why there must be relationswith all parts of the population there, and I would not rule out those who are not mentioned at present.

[Shlonsky] It was said about the IDF years ago that it is a small, mobile, fast and ingenious army. Today the army is larger and has greater firepower. Would you say that the current strength of the IDF does not affect its ability to improvise, its mobility and its fast reactions?

[Levi] First and foremost, strength is necessary. If you are suggesting that we could be far smaller and stand up to our enemies as they are today, I think that is simply impossible because there is a certain minimal ratio between quantity and quality which we must maintain. This ratio is not a matter of one to one with our enemies or a little bit less than that. That is why we need this strength. We must expand the most sophisticated systems of this power. We also resort to ingenuity now. If somebody is looking, however, for some sort of trick which without any efforts and casualties will result in an immediate victory, I am not aware of such a trick.

[Shlonsky] How much do you think Israel can and should allocate to security? I am referring to the fact that war expenditures increase after every war. Even after the peace agreement with Egypt the security allocation increased. Given this state of affairs, can one assess that the security budget will not decrease under any circumstances whatsoever?

[Levi] First, I would suggest that we do not share your assessment that the security budget increased in the wake of the peace agreement with Egypt.

[Shlonsky] Its share in the gross national product.

[Levi] I am not sure about that and I do not want to go into this argument because the primordial question is not our GNP compared to that of the enemy countries because then we wouldnot stand any chance whatsoever, but about the essential part which must be alloted to security in view of the threats of our enemies, both potential and practical threats. We are not talking about a country that must keep an army because that is the way it is done but about a country which has to cope with very real and overt threats. Therefore, despite difficulties — and I understand all the economic difficulties, not more than anybody else but just like anybody else — an answer must be given to the enemy in terms of strength. In this context, partial answers might be tantamount to no answer at all.

[Shlonsky] Let us assume that a peace agreement had not been signed with Egypt and the Egyptians had opened a battlefront on the Suez Canal or a little bit closer. Would you then propose to increase the defense budget?

[Levi] I explained the story about the peace agreement with Egypt once. I think it is good to have a peace agreement. I assume that your question implies that other elements remain unchanged. I claim — and this may be corroborated by figures — that a comparison of our enemies, including Egypt, in 1977 and our enemies from 1983 to 1986, excluding Egypt will show that we now have, without Egypt, more enemies than we had at the time. Hence, despite the inconvenience to the public's finance, that is not the situation now. We are not talking about the enemies we had in 1977 excluding Egypt. We are talking about the enemies from 1983 to 1986, excluding Egypt. We have to build our army to face these enemies and, to my regret, these enemies have not decreased.

Arens Appeals to Druze To Withdraw From Fighting

TA190534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens last night called on the Druze in Lebanon to return to their villages and to stop the fighting east and south of Beirut. According to Arens, Israel understands the desire of the Druze to protect their villages and lives, but there is no reason for them to try and break into Beirut. The defense minister made these remarks at a Likud rally in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports:

[Begin recording] [Enosh] The gate to Beirut, so the defense minister's remarks imply, is now located in the small townof Suq al-Gharb, where a battle between the Lebanese Army and Druze and terrorist fighters has been raging recently. Even if we could gnderstand the desire of the Druze to defend their lives, the lives of their families, as well as their fear that their villages might be invaded, Arens says, we can still not understand their involvement in Suq al-Gharb.

[Arens] Beirut is not a Druze city. There is no reason for the Druze to try to break through the gate to Beirut. I would like to tell the Druze: You have nothing to look for in Suq al-Gharb; we are calling on you to return to your villages.

[Enosh] As for the withdrawal to the Al-Awwali River, the defense minister says we have thus spared, as we will continue to spare, human lives and resources. Our status in the world has also improved as a result. However, he stresses, under no circumstances have we given up the struggle against the terrorists.

[Arens] We will continue to strike the terrorists wherever they may be, north of the Al-Awwali River too. We conduct patrols north of this line. We prevent them from getting near this line. In general, whoever has followed events in Lebanon recently even if he — like all of us — cannot foresee what will happen, knows that the last word has not been said yet. [end recording]

More on Arens Remarks

TA191145 Tel Aviv Hatzofe in Hebrew 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil was ready to sign a peace agreement with Israel on condition that Israel expel the Syrians from Lebanon. However, the Israeli Government did not accept this condition. This was revealed yesterday by Defense Minister Moshe Arens at a meeting in Jerusalem.

Disturbances Reported in West Bank, Jerusalem

Hebron Explosion

TA171717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] An explosive charge — apparently a handgrenade — blew up last night in the Hebron marketplace. The incident occurred at a time when the market was crowded. A curfew was imposed on the site of the incident.

Our correspondents Arye Gus and Shmu'el Tal report that stones were hurled at an IDF patrol in Qalandiyah, north of Jerusalem but there were no casualties. Tires were set on fire in Tulkarm and local inhabitants were ordered to remove them. In Jerusalem, stones were hurled at Jewish worshippers in the area of the Damascus Gate. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that two Palestinian flags were flown in the old city of Jerusalem.

West Bank Incidents

TA180651 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2145 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Judaea and Samaria, 17 Sep (ITIM) — Yom Kippur was marked in Judaea and Samaria by an unprecedented number of disturbances, probably due to the fact that the Sabra and Shatila anniversary is Sunday, 18 September.

The writing of hostile slogans, throwing stones, setting up stone roadblocks, arson, flying PLO flags, and even murder left the policemen and the security forces without a moment's rest. Even the police commander of the Samaria district was summoned from his Haifa house in view of the events and incidents.

On Friday evening, the eve of Yom Kippur, Avraham Dahan, a resident of the Har Berakha settlement, was injured on his way home. Stones were thrown at his vehicle, the windshield was smashed, and he was injured in the left eye and taken to the Kefar Sava hospital.

A roadblock was set up on the Nabulus-Tulkarm intersection and removed by the border policemen.

A telephone post on the Silat-(Khartiyah) intersection was set on fire. Seventeen villagers were detained, interrogated, and released.

A vehicle which was stolen from At-Tirah was found burned near Qalqilyah. In Qalqilyah itself hostile slogans were painted on the walls of houses appealing to the residents to stage a general strike on Sunday, the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

Hostile slogans calling for "death to the traitors" from the Village Leagues and their collaborators, as well as stating that "the PLO is our sole representative" were found in the new (Ashkar) refugee camp. Stones were thrown from this refugee camp at an Israeli vehicle on the eve of Yom Kippur, breaking the windshield.

Sixty PLO flags were flown in the village of Al-Yamun in the Janin area, and policemen removed them.

The body of a 14-year-old girl was found in an olive plantation in Nabulus. The girl was adopted and the police had information that she befriended criminals. The assumption is that the murder was sexually motivated.

Swastikas Painted on Car

TA180715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Last night the police detained two residents from the village of Tur'an who are suspected of having painted swastikas on the car of another villager, as well as three residents from the village of Sakhnin who are suspected of having organized an illegal procession in their village to mark the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. The police and security forces in northern Israel, Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip have organized for possible disturbances today.

PLO Flag Flown

TA180920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Incidents have occurred in a number of places in Israel against the background of the Sabra and Shatila massacre anniversary.

The police station in the village of Baqa al-Gharbiyya in the Triangle was stoned, a PLO flag was flown near a local bank, slogans were painted, and there was even a demonstration which was quietly dispersed. One person was detained. A bus which was traveling from Baqa al-Gharbiyya to Hadera was stoned. A tire was burned in the village of Tamra, while in Sakhnin three residents were detained on suspicion of having organized an illegal march.

Jerusalem Demonstration

TA181038 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Jerusalem police detained 25 people who demonstrated this morning near the Monument to the Unknown Soldier in East Jerusalem. In the course of dispersing the demonstration, a border policeman was injured by a stone thrown at him from the Old City Wall. The police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators after warning them that their acts were illegal. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the demonstration was staged to mark the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. The demonstrators told our correspondent that the police treated them violently. Incidents took place elsewhere in Israel too against the background of the anniversary of the massacre in Lebanon.

Businesses Strike in Jerusalem

TA181139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Excerpt] There is a partial commercial strike in East Jerusalem today, but our police affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that quiet is being maintained, there is no reinforced presence by the security forces, and tourist traffic is as lively as always.

Curfew in Ad-Duhayshah

TA181840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] The curfew imposed on the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem was lifted about an hour ago, and the Civilian Administration is about to lift the curfew from the Nabulus casbah as well. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew was imposed this morning because of cases of stone-throwing and waving of the PLO flags on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

Security forces believe that the general strike planned for the territories has failed, and they attribute this to the decline in the PLO's power. Several hundred people demonstrated in East Jerusalem to mark the anniversary of the massacre. Some 20 of them have been detained.

Slogans Shouted During Golan Heights Funeral

TA180621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] On the Golan Heights, anti-Israeli slogans were heard at the funeral of a Druze leader yesterday. Thousands of Druze came to the village of Majdal Shams for the burial of Shaykh Kamal Kanj. Some carried signs denouncing Israel and Zionism. The shaykh himself was known for his sympathy to Syria and held a senior post in the Syrian Army. A parallel funeral was held for him on the Syrian side of the border.

Reports Conflict on PLO Presence in Lebanon

TA180811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] A delegation of Israeli Druze leaders met with representatives of the Lebanese Druze militia in Hasbayya in southern Lebanon. A member of the delegation, Muhammad Ramal, told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that the militia's representatives again announced that PLO members are not fighting alongside them. At the same time, they said it is possible that Syrians or terrorists penetrated through areas which are not under Druze control. This morning Yasir 'Arafat, in a U.S. television interview, confirmed that his people are aiding the Druze in Lebanon.

U.S. Ambassador Reassures Druze About U.S. Stance

TA191010 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0955 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] In their meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv, 11 leaders of the Israeli Druze community demanded that the United States not intervene in the war in Lebanon. According to the Druze representatives, Ambassador Lewis replied that the United States does not support the Phalangists but ratherthe legal government of Lebanon. The head of the group and spiritual leader of the Israeli Druze community, Shaykh Amin Tarif, reacted to this by saying that the Beirut government represents only the Phalangists and not all factions in Lebanon.

At the moment, the 11 Druze leaders are considering whether to go to the defense minister. As they held their meeting with the ambassador, about 100 Druze youths who are opposed to these leaders demonstrated outside the embassy building. They held up signs declaring, among other things: "We Will Not Put Up With the Takeover of Ash-Shuf;" "The United States Supports the Minority in Lebanon;" and "The United States, Beware of a Second Vietnam in Lebanon."

Beirut Refugees Seek Safety in U.S., S. Lebanon

TA180620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Residents of the refugee camps in the Beirut area have asked the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon to allow several thousands of residents to emigrate to the United States. Palestinian leaders in southern Lebanon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that for some days they have felt that there will be massacres in the camps. At the U.S. Embassy, they were told that for the time being it is impossible to evacuate thousands of refugees to the United States. The representatives of the refugees want to meet with Israeli official representatives this week to ask permission to settle south of the Al-Awwali River. The refugees' representatives met Sa'd Haddad on this issue but failed to obtain his permission for this.

Junblatt Representative To Visit This Week

TA181014 Tel Aviv 'Al Hamishmar in Hebrew 18 Sep 83 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] Druze dignitaries from the Carmel and Galilee villages went to the Ash-Shuf Mountains last Friday in the company of the two Druze envoys from Lebanon who were in Israel for a few days. Official sources could not say if the Israeli Druze dignitaries' trip was made with the knowledge or authorization of state officials. Up to yesterday evening, the Druze dignitaries had not yet returned from Lebanon. The request by some Israeli correspondents to go to Lebanon at the invitation of the two Druze envoys in order to verify their claim that the Druze are not fighting in cooperation with the terrorists and Syrians was not approved by official elements. It was learned that a representative of Walid Junblatt's Socialist Party is expected in Israel this week.

Red Cross Visits Six POW's Held by PLO

TA181016 Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew 18 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Representatives of the International Red Cross [IRC] in Geneva visited the six Israeli prisoners held by the PLO on 15 September. A doctor was among the visitors, who saw the prisoners without witnesses. This was reported by the IRC spokesman in Geneva yesterday.

It is expected that this week the IRC will pay a visit to the three Israeli prisoners being held in Syria.

Netherlands To Withdraw Forces From UNIFIL

TA181057 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] The Netherlands will withdraw its forces from UNIFIL. The Netherlands UNIFIL unit includes 800 soldiers. Upon their withdrawal, 5,000 soldiers will remain in UNIFIL. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from the UN Command that even with the evacuation of the Netherlands unit, UNIFIL will continue its duties after its mandate is renewed by the UN Security Council.

Lebanese Affairs Coordinator Lubrani Interviewed

TA161150 Tel Aviv Yedi'ot Aharonot in Hebrew 16 Sep 83 pp 1, 18 of Yom Kippur supplement

[Report on interview with the coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, by Refa'el Bashan, at Lubrani's office in the Defense Ministry; date not given]

[Excerpts] Bashan: With your permission, let us try to analyze the nature of your job. What, in fact, does the title coordinator of the government's activities in Lebanon mean?

Lubrani: I can tell you openly and without the least bit of false modesty that even today, 4 months after becoming totally involved in the issue, I am still unsure whether I indeed have all the elements necessary to properly fulfill the entire range of missions my job demands. My job is mainly to concentrate all our state branches that are active in Lebanon on one platform to avoid duplication of efforts and "creaking" in the achievement of the goals the Israeli Government has set for itself in Lebanon.

Bashan: Do you maintain regular and steady contacts with the leaders of all the communities and factions now struggling for hegemony in Lebanon?

Lubrani: Yes!

Bashan: Does that also include the leftist Druze leader, Walid Junblatt?

Lubrani (after lengthy hesitation): Yes, I have met with him.

Bashan: When did you last meet?

Lubrani (decisively): I am not willing to answer such questions. In fact, it seems that I have already said too much.

Bashan: And do you see Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil from time to time?

Lubrani: No.

Bashan: Why not?

Lubrani (laconically): I am not willing to answer your question.

Bashan: How true is the persistent rumor that Israel was disappointed by the Phalangists' military weakness and the reliability of their promises and that as a result decided to support the Druze?

Lubrani (without hesitation): Those rumors are simply foolish. The truth is that over the years, Israel has established strong ties with the Lebanese Christian community and its offshoots, especially the Lebanese forces known as the Phalangists. These relations became closer and found expression in the field. During the Peace for Galilee Operation, we reached the Ash-Shuf Mountains, where a large part of the Lebanese Druze population lives, and our relations with them, too, became closer. (Raising his voice) We are always careful, however, not to let these contacts replace our ties with the Christian community.

Bashan: The leaders of the Israeli Druze vehemently deny the claim that their brethren under Walid Junblatt are cooperating with the terrorists.

Lubrani: It is natural that our friends, the Israeli Druze, should have difficulty believing that their Lebanese brethren are indeed cooperating with the terrorists. It is clear that it is hard for them to digest this, come to terms with it, and they will even want to obscure it. (resolutely) To the best of our knowledge, however, there is cooperation between the Druze and the terrorist organizations, and the denials by the Israeli Druze are futile.

Bashan: The Druze have announced that their party demands, as a minimum, that the defense minister, chief of staff, and chairman of the senate be Druze. Are those demands reasonable?

Lubrani: If you want my candid opinion, no! It seems that the Druze also did not regard the "basket of demands" they presented as the final word, but rather as an opening move for negotiations, at the outset of which one stipulates the highest possible price, and afterward, well, God is great. In my opinion, no central government in Lebanon would agree that at the head of the senate, in which all legislation is formulated, there stand a Druze. On the other hand, the government under President al-Jumayyil is likely to accept the repartitioning of the Ash-Shuf Mountains if it does not overly harm the prestige of the Christian community.

Bashan: Is any settlement in Lebanon imaginable without Junblatt?

Lubrani (soberly): Speaking in terms of realpolitik, I do not expect a settlement in Lebanon in the foreseeable future without Walid Junblatt. Perhaps that is unpleasant to hear, but that is a fact.

Bashan: Is there any truth to the rumors that Khomeyni sent large and well-armed Iranian units to Lebanon, and that they are significantly helping the terrorist organizations?

Lubrani: That is correct. Khomeyni sent Iranian soldiers and officers to fight with the radical terrorist organizations, particularly the one under Ahmad Jibril's command. Their activity is especially noticeable in the Tripoli area and the Al-Biqa'.

Bashan: The Sunni Lebanese leader, Sa'ib Salam, who served in the past as the prime minister of Lebanon, sent an urgent letter to U.S. Vice President George Bush this week saying, among other things: "If the United States does not come to the aid of Lebanon immediately and President al-Jumayyil's government collapses, then no moderate Arab government, from the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf, will be able to stand on its feet. The United States will completely lose its position, and the entire region will fall like a ripe fruit into the hands of the Soviet Union." Is there any truth and reason to those remarks?

Lubrani: (pensively) I would say that there is some truth to Salam's remarks, even though they seem very simplistic to me. One thing is clear: The fall of President al-Jumayyil's government may greatly damage the U.S. position in the entire region, in the near or distant future.

Bashan: How is it that the U.S. Marine Force and the French, Italian, and British expeditionary forces, together with the Multinational Force, are unable to stop the civil war in Lebanon?

Lubrani: Many ask that question, in Israel and abroad, and justly so! (with strong emphasis) For our part, we did our best to try to influence the concerned states to increase their presence in Lebanon, especially in the areas of fighting. We realized that not one of the countries that has an army in Lebanon is eager to endanger its soldiers' lives in an internal intercommunal conflict.

Bashan: Did we not leave the Ash-Shuf Mountains too hastily?

Lubrani: [line drop as published] the heart, that really up to the last minute before the withdrawal, Israel made every effort, by every way and means, to bridge the differences between the rival communities. (ruefully) To our collective sorrow, our efforts failed. Twice the United States asked us to postpone our withdrawal from Lebanon, hoping that the Israeli initiatives would succeed, and each time it ultimately became clear to us that the desired solution was beyond reach.

Bashan: Did the Druze and Christians lie to us and mislead us?

Lubrani: I would call it hopes that were dashed. Had our move not been tied to a date, I have no doubt that Israel would have continued looking for a political formula for a settlement in Lebanon, if only so that we might have been able to look atourselves in the face without shame, knowing that we indeed did our utmost to prevent a bloody clash between the two communities.

Al-Asad Transferring Funds to West Bank

TA151335 Tel Aviv Yoman Hashavu'a in Hebrew 16 Sep 83 pp 15, 16

[Report by Rafi Hason]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has for years now been transferring large sums of money to the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. The sums involved amount to millions of dollars. Senior figures among the Judaea and Samaria Arabs who wished to remain anonymous (although the editorial board has their names) and who reported this to *Yoman Hashavu'a* added that President al-Asad has received a delegation of West Bank Arabs in his office who complained that King Husayn had instructed his government 5 years ago to withhold millions of dollars due to the mayors and various personalities in the territories. As a result, the Syrian president decided to transfer the money directly to the inhabitants of the West Bank.

The sources emphasized: "As a result of Husayn's decision not to transfer the money to the West Bank, the construction boom has suffered a slowdown. However, thanks to President al-Asad's firm decision to funnel the funds to us, the construction work in Judaea and Samaria is nearing completion."

Bayt Jala Mayor Farah al-A'raj told *Yoman Hashavu'a* that for 5 years now Jordan has been holding back $1 million which the municipality was entitled to receive. He claims that the municipality cannot continue to function like this "but recently I was promised that the Syrian Government will channel some funds to the municipality coffers so that we can conduct the affairs of the city," he said.

A member of the Bayt Jala Municipal Council said that President al-Asad dispatched an angry message to King Husayn demanding to know why the latter had decided to withhold the money because of the presence of certain Arabs in the territories. A similar message was also sent by President [title as published] Fahd. The member of the Bayt Jala Municipal Council emphasized that he believes Husayn's decision came in light of the immigration of Arab inhabitants from Judaea and Samaria.

This is the first time since 1967 that King Husayn has withheld money from the municipalities in the territories. Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Jordan this week bearing — among other things — a message from King Fahd to Husayn.

In this context, the Saudi foreign minister said in a special interview with Jordanian radio that King Fahd demands to know why Jordan is not giving the money.

"Saudi Arabia is extremely concerned over Jordan's decision to freeze the money. We are even prepared to increase our aid to Jordan, provided that it continues to funnel money to Judaea and

Samaria," he said. "King Fahd is interested in having the money flow in so that the Arabs of the territories constitute a power center and prove to Israel that it cannot annex the West Bank forever, as well as to let Israel know that Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, and others stand behind the Arabs, and all these countries are also prepared to direct money to the West Bank.

A member of the Fahd al-Qawasimi clan from Hebron told *Yoman Hashavu'a that "a representative of the Syrian president* has secretly visited the West Bank several times, closely following the building process." It was also learned that the Syrian envoy also toured East Jerusalem incognito and conferred with a number of leaders, including Jordanian Government Defense Minister Anwar Nusaybah.

Nusaybah himself refused to either confirm or deny the report, saying in reaction: "This is no one's business, and I am not prepared to talk about it right now. This is a personal matter and nothing more," he said.

The waqf institutions in the territories, whose center is in Jerusalem, have also not received money from Jordan for a long time, contrary to the situation that existed up until a few years ago and despite the fact that the waqf employees are considered Jordanian Government employees. The Jordanian emissaries who also used to come from Jordan carrying thousands of dinars have stopped arriving in Judaea and Samaria, too. "However, thanks to the Syrian financial aid, matters have begun to straighten out," Said Farah al-A'Raj of Tulkarm.

It has been learned that every month during the past 2 years a representative of the Syrian president has arrived in the territories and distributed millions of dollars. One of the mayors who has family ties in Syria is Mustafa an-Natshah, the deposed Hebron mayor.

Meanwhile, the money from Jordan, which has stopped coming, was usually sent through Anwar al-Khatib, the Jordanian Government's senior official in the West Bank, or through the Jerusalem Trade Bureau or at the recommendation of its director, (Fa'ik Barakat). With these funds, many of the king's loyalists built fancy homes, plants, and factories.

At the same time, there are those who complain that they have not yet received all the money Syria promised them, and that therefore they have been forced to stop work on their villas. "If the funds arrive soon, those people will be able to finish their homes," Ramallah supporters of the Syrian president said.

Tulkarm Mayor Hilmi Hanun told *Yoman Hashavu'a* that the Arab towns that cooperate with the Civilian Administration, like Bethlehem, do not receive financial aid from Jordan or Syria. "As a result, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has been making frequent trips abroad to raise millions of dollars for Bethlehem," he said.

The Tulkarm mayor said "the West Bank municipalities are in dire financial straits. Many Tulkarm youths go to the Arab states to raise funds and then return to Judaea and Samaria and set up plants and factories."

Beyt Jala Mayor Farah al-A'raj said that because the contacts between the Syrians and Arabs from the territories are held secretly, Israel and the Civilian Administration are unable to control the transfer of the funds given as political presents. The money itself is sent to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip by many routes. It is also said in the territories that before the funds are sent to Judaea and Samaria, they are first personally approved by Al-Asad.

"Al-Asad has a detailed list of who gets money and who does not, and he openly helps the elements who are active against Israeli policy," said East Jerusalem merchants, including 54-year-old Rajah Wahid.

The merchants added that various Israeli and Jordanian newspapers recently reported that the 20 million shekels that the Jordanian Government decided to grant citrus fruit growers in the territories have already arrived. "The truth is that the funds have already been approved, but the Jordanian Government is still withholding most of the money," Jerusalem merchant Wahid said.

(Ramiz Salah Gadallah), one of the leaders of the Hebron Arab community told *Yoman Hashavu'a* that he recently headed a delegation of Arab notables to Amman. "I can tell you that after we met with King Husayn and the leaders of his government, it became clear to us that the king's attitude toward the Arabs of the territories has changed. The reason, according to the Jordanian Government, is that the Arabs of the territories have not helped Jordan enough against Israel's occupation policy in the territories, or against the Israeli policy of launching the war in Lebanon."

Herzog Receives Party Delegations For Talks

Alignment Faction

TA181028 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] The consultations between President Herzog and the Alignment faction's delegation is underway at the presidential residence in Jerusalem. The Alignment faction includes seven Knesset members headed by the faction's chairman, MK Moshe Shahal. Upon arriving at the presidential residence, they told our correspondents Hayim Zissovich and Yosi Qoren that they will ask the president to entrust the Alignment with forming the government since, in their opinion, the Alignment is capable of doing this. The Likud delegation will arrive at the presidential residence in the afternoon.

Cabinet Meeting

TA181056 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1050 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] At today's Cabinet meeting, the ministers heard reports about events in Lebanon. The meeting was declared a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. It was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. In reaction to ministers' criticism, Levi said he is acting for Menahem Begin in presiding over the Cabinet meetings at Begin's request and by virtue of being deputy prime minister.

The Cabinet meeting has ended and so has the meeting between the Alignment's representatives with the president of the state.

Peres Absent From Meeting

TA181151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Now over to reporter Jack Katzenell at the president's house for the latest on the president's consultations toward forming a new government:

[Katzenell — live] Party Chairman Shim'on Peres did not come to the presidential residence this morning. Instead, the delegation was led by Moshe Shahal, chairman of the Labor-Alignment corpus in the Knesset, and Hayim Bar-Lev, the Labor Party's secretary general. There were nine people in the delegation altogether. They included representatives of the smaller factions in the Alignment: MAPAM, Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and Knesset Member Yitzhaq Peres, who is a one-man faction. The group was cordially received by President Hayim Herzog for consultations which lasted about 1 and 1/2 hours. When the delegation came out, I asked corpus chairman Moshe Shahal how the president had received his advice that Shim'on Peres form the next government?

[Begin Shahal recording] Well, I cannot speak on behalf of the president. You have to ask him. There was a very serious discussion, for about 2 hours. We discussed many alternatives and one of them the possibility that Mr Shim'on Peres will be the candidate to form a Cabinet. The president is going to speak with other factions in the Knesset and then he will decide. [end recording]

[Katzenell — live] President Herzog will receive a delegation from the Likud, which will of course advise him to charge Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with the task of forming the next government. This is Jack Katzenell at the presidential residence.

Likud Leaders Meet Herzog

TA181619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] The president said this afternoon during his meeting with the Likud representatives that he will find out, in his talks tomorrow and the day after tomorrow with the other factions, how many Knesset Members actually support a government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the Likud members presented the president with two documents signed by the coalition faction representatives expressing support for Shamir's candidacy. One of the documents is signed by 64 Knesset Members, whereas the other — endorsing the existing coalition agreement — does not include the signatures of Minister Ben-Porat and MK Yiga'el Hurvits.

Our correspondent has learned that the meeting between the president and the Likud members primarily centered on the idea of the national unity government. David Levi said that immediately after Yitzhaq Shamir is entrusted with the job of forming the Cabinet, he will invite the Alignment to join the government and will furthermore offer it appropriate portfolios.

The president pointed out that on the subject of the unity government, he got more succinct answers from the Likud representatives than he did from the Alignment delegates.

This evening the president will confer with the Knesset speaker to discuss the argument raised by MK Hayim Druckman that he, too, should be invited for consultations at the presidential residence. He was not invited because he had seceded from the National Religious Party and does not enjoy the status of an independent faction.

NRP Delegation

TA190901 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0840 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] In the course of the talk with the president of the state, a member of the National Religious Party [NRP], MK Melamed, said that the NRP's desire for the government to continue contradicts the declared desire to set up a national unity government. He made these remarks after the NRP members informed the president that they support Yitzhaq Shamir's candidacy for the prime minister's post in the new government. Melamed's remarks gave rise to anger among the NRP delegation members and an argument developed, with the members claiming that there is no contradiction between the two aspirations. The president of the state told MK Melamed he is faced with a specific problem: whether 64 coalition Knesset members indeed support Yitzhaq Shamir. To this Melamed answered that although he would like the possibility of forming a national unity government to be examined first, perhaps under Minister Burg's leadership, his signature on the coalition document is valid.

The Tehiya Movement's representatives will arrive at the president's residence in an hour.

Tehiya Movement

TA191218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] At noon the president of the state received a delegation of the Tehiya faction. Its members recommended that the task of forming the new government be entrusted to Yitzhaq Shamir. Earlier, the president received the National Religious Party [NRP] representatives and they too proposed that Yitzhaq Shamir be entrusted with the task of forming the new government. However, MK Avraham Melamed surprised his colleagues when he suggested that the president impose the task on a neutral candidate in order to set up a national unity government.

Begin To Resume Work 'Later This Week'

TA180756 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 18 Sep 83 p 1

[Excerpt] In reply to a question as to whether the Cabinet should name an acting prime minister in view of Begin's incapacitation, a spokesman for the prime minister's office said there was no need for such a step.

The prime minister, he said, was fully capable of fulfilling his duties and there was no need to name an acting prime minister in his stead. He hoped that Begin would return to his office sometime later this week.

Begin has secluded himself at home for ten days, and Matityahu Shmuelevitz, Director of the Prime Minister's Office, said that Begin's return to his office depends on whether he can shave off his beard.

Shmuelevitz confirmed earlier reports that Begin had lost a lot of weight because of not eating properly, but said press reports that he was in a deep depression over the worsening Lebanon crises were exaggerated.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor, who sees Begin daily, said the premier was receiving reports on matters of state. He said Begin was taking a rest, and added his conduct was no different to President Reagan's when he vacations at his California ranch.

Poll Shows Likud Gaining Seats With Shamir

TA161413 Tel Aviv Yedi'ot Aharonot in Hebrew 16 Sep 83

[Dahaf poll]

[Text] Assuming the Likud was led by Shamir instead of Begin, it would win 52 seats if the election were held today. This is the most significant finding in a public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute for *Yedi'ot Aharonot*. The poll included 1,183 interviewees who were a representative sample of the Jewish population, excluding the kibbutzim. However, in distributing the seats, the Kibbutz people and the minorities were taken into consideration.

Question: Assuming Yitzhaq Shamir heads the Likud instead of Begin, for what party would you vote if elections were held today? (The results — in number of seats; in brackets — the results of the last poll conducted in July):

— Likud — 52 (50)

— Alignment — 46 (47)

— National Religious Party — 4 (5)

— Agudat Yisra'el — 5 (5)

— TAMI — 1 (1)

— Shinuy — 3 (3)

— Citizens Rights Movement — 2 (2)

— Tehiya — 3 (3)

— HADASH — 4 (4)

ALGERIA

Report on Communications Signed With Sweden

LD181043 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Algiers, 18-09-83 (APS) — Mr Curt Bastrom's, Swedish minister of transports and communications, visit has been marked by the signature of an official report on communications.

This Algero-Swedish meeting was an opportunity to deal with prospects of the reinforcement of the cooperation between the two countries, giving rise to wide possibilities of developing exchanges, mainly as concerns communications. On this purpose, it was decided to take into account the levels of the telecommunications development in both countries, and consequently, mobilize the human and technical capacities able to insure the improvement of cooperation relations between the two administrations.

Both sides praised the political will of cooperation linking Algeria and Sweden which has often been reaffirmed during the different meetings of both countries' responsibilities, at diverse levels. As concerns multilateral relations specific to postal services, the two sides decided to consult mutually in fields of common interest, backing all initiatives aimed at promoting the equitable and peaceful utilization of telecommunications resources.

The Swedish minister said he has been interested by the manufacturing plant of telephone switch gears, and the capacity of training within the very plant. The two sides noted with satisfaction the quality of political relations and the convergent vision on North-South relations between Algeria and Sweden, committing to work out, in the framework of a global approach of bilateral cooperation, concrete actions, mainly taking into account the necessity to balance exchanges between the two countries.

LIBYA

Armed Forces Placed at Disposal of Junblatt, Syria

LD180044 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] JANA has learned that the leader of the revolution, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has issued an order placing the Libyan Arab forces deployed in Al-Biqa' at the disposal of Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party. The order also places the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and all their military (?equipment) at the disposal of the Syrian command. The leader of the revolution has called on Arabs to follow Libya's example.

The leader of the revolution also sent a telegram to Arab kings and presidents. Here is its text:

You do not need an explanation of the situation. The recklessness of the United States and its allies is not hidden. You also do not need an introduction to the new 10th crusade. All I hope is that we adopt a united Arab stand in self-defense now that the matter has reached the point where big powers use their fleets to punish an Arab tribe inside the Arab homeland and in its own territory.

Your brother: Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

JANA: U.S. Continues Attacks on Lebanese Muslims

LD181519 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Beirut, Dhulhija 11, Sept 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The U.S. crusading forces and the Lebanese Phalangist authorities' army this morning continued their barbaric attack against progressive and Muslim positions in Beirut and the nearby mountains. Violent clashes broke out at dawn today between the Progressive Socialist Party's forces and the U.S. Marines in areas surrounding Beirut airport and in hills overlooking the Lebanese capital and its suburbs. A spokesman for the crusading U.S. forces said American troops attacked the positions of progressive and Islamic forces together with the fascist Phalangist militias in Beirut's suburbs.

JANA Says U.S. Policy 'Directed Toward War'

LD161643 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Tripoli 16 Sept (JANA) — The U.S. policy which is being pursued by the Reagan administration is directed towards war, flagrant provocation, the spreading of terrorism, the use of warships, acting against peoples' freedom, suppressing national movements, and resorting to means of force so as to assassinate those who oppose and reject domination. Despite all this, the U.S. Administration is trying to make us accept this policy which is based on a myth. The myth is a deliberate falsification of historic events and is a cowardly attempt to conceal the true face which expresses impudence and treachery.

Through his frequent statements, U.S. Vice President George Bush tried to embellish before our eyes this aggressive policy. This is but a flagrant falsification of historic facts. It is also a bad style which relies on deception, misleading, and hypocrisy. It is in vain that U.S. Vice President George Bush tries to fight against the facts of history. It is also in vain that the boss of the U.S. Administration tries the same. The United States is not the meek lamb. The U.S. Government is not a government that demands respect. It uses everything and it acts in every manner so as to fan the struggle against the Arab nation and bring this nation to its knees and also to betray the sacrifices of this nation and waste the struggles of this nation.

It sends its naval fleets and its military aircraft, if not in the direction of Libya, then in the direction of Chad,and if not in the direction of Chad, it is in the direction of Lebanon, Syria, or elsewhere. It also engineers plots, spreads fear, engineers assassination incidents, plots against the peoples' freedom and interests, destroys the sons of this nation, plots against them, betrays them, and stabs them in the back because they say "no" to the U.S. policy, the policy of terrorism and suppression against the peoples, the policy of flagrant and burning enmity to the unity of the Arab homeland and to the aspirations of the Arab people.

The U.S. foreign policy organizes silent and explosive upheavals which as a whole constitute a provocation to the feelings of the Arab man. The United States has not on any day appeared to link words with action or translate slogans into facts and principles that serve man. Terrorism does not bring tranquillity; treachery and oppression limit one's aspirations to saving one's skin. The United States is doing to us what the crusaders did. It is now leading the 10th crusades and is preparing its fleets and aircraft for aggression and imposing domination by force. We have to understand the truth about the statements by U.S. Vice President Bush so as to affirm that the U.S. policy will continue to be regarded dubious by all, and as a policy that no one can trust. Any politician is wiser than to be deceived by appearances.

MOROCCO

Romanian Minister of Labor Departs Tangiers

LD171342 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Tangiers, Sep 17 (MAP) — Romanian Minister of Labour Maxim Berghianu left the northern Moroccan town of Tangiers Friday at the end of a working visit to Morocco. While in Morocco, Mr Berghianu reviewed with Moroccan officials all aspects of economic and social cooperation between Morocco and Romania and presided over the signing of the Moroccan-Romanian administrative agreement related to health and welfare.

SUDAN

Punishments Outlined in New Penal Code

JN161115 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Sep (SUNA) — Article 128 of Sudan Penal Code for 1983 has stipulated that any public official who takes a reward for doing official work would be punished by lashing, fine, and imprisonment. The article explained that any public official, or any person expecting to be one, who either accepts, obtains, agrees to accept, or tries to obtain for himself or others any sort of reward, in cash or otherwise, as an incentive for doing official work would be considered as a breacher of this article. The punishment also includes public officials who refuse to do official work or show prejudice in favour of or against any person while doing that work in addition to those who offer any service to any person or do harm to him through any body or public official.

Item (2) of the article stipulated that any benefit obtained by a public official who receives a reward as an incentive for doing a work without intending to do or did not do it would be considered a breacher of the article.

On the other hand an authoritative source confirmed to SUNA yesterday that the new penal code is effective as from the date of its signature on Sep. 8, 1983, and that great numbers of its copies were distributed to the courts. The source pointed out that non-delivery of the law to some courts does not mean its delay but the new punishments would be applied on any person who seriously committed a crime on or after Sep. 8, 1983. In this connection Omdurman Court yesterday convicted a person of theft and sentenced him to hand mutilation, but the sentence would be executed in the right time before a people's gathering unless cancelled through appeal, SUNA learned.

TUNISIA

Bush Gives Press Conference, Ends Visit

LD161734 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Excerpts] The official visit to Tunisia by U.S. Vice President George Bush ended this morning. He left Tunis-Carthage International Airport at 1000 following talks yesterday with President Habib Bourguiba and Prime Minister Mohamad Mzali, who received him at the VIP lounge at the airport.

In a statement to the press, the U.S. vice president repeated his thanks to President Habib Bourguiba, Mr Mohammed Mzali, members of the government,and the Tunisian people for the warm welcome he was given. At the aircraft steps, Mr Mohammed Mzali shook hands with Tunisia's guest and his wife. The guests were also seen off by Habib Bourgiba Jr, private adviser to the Tunisian president, and Abdelmejid Kirwi, head of the Protocol Department.

This morning, Mr George Bush held a press conference at his residence at Essaada Palace in La Marsa in the presence of Information Minister Abderrazak Kefi, the two countries' ambassadors, and a number of representatives of the Tunisian and foreign information media.

During this press conference, the results of the visit of the U.S. vice president and accompanying delegation to Tunis, and a number of international issues were reviewed and discussed. At the beginning of the press conference, Mr George Bush stated that it is appropriate that Tunis is the last stage of his tour to a number of Arab Maghreb countries. He said that despite the short time of this visit, the two sides — the Tunisian and U.S. — were able to achieve a great deal; this was due in particular to the ability of Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali to go directly into every issue discussed. He added: Although we differed regarding our view, our differences were differences among friends. The U.S. vice president reaffirmed that Tunisia and the United States have a common view of what is happening in the world — a view based on anarchy, threat, and the haphazard call for the use of arms, but on the basis of cooperation and mutual respect,

After praising the friendly relations between Tunisia and the United States of America, Mr George Bush expressed his admiration of what Tunisia has realized in terms of achievements. He said: We are happy with the assistance we hav given to realize part of these achievements. He added: We support Tunisia's efforts to free itself from foreign pressures and threats. We respect its commitment to the principles of nonalignment. Our will to back Tunisia's security is not dictated by geographical or political considerations, but stems from our strong conviction that the Tunisian example of responsible economic and political development has realized noticeable progress — it is an example that should be followed by other countries. The United States vice president added:The international framework that we aim to realize and develop is one in which every country will be, like Tunisia, free in its development and progress in accordance with its own nationalist [word indistinct]. I am happy to reaffirm that this visit has left me with a new feeling of deeper conviction of and satisfaction with the strength of friendly relations between us and with the [word indistinct] results achieved by the Tunisian state and its cadres. Mr George Bush then spoke about the Middle East question, the Lebanese issue, and the issues of the Third World, and reaffirmed the U.S. attitudes concerning these questions.

Communique on Turkish Foreign Minister's Visit

PM181942 Tunis L'Action in French 13 Sep 83 p 6

[TAP report: "Determination To Give Commercial and Economic Relations an Exemplary Character"]

[Text] Tunis — The following is the text of the Tunisian-Turkish joint communique issued at the end of the Turkish foreign minister's visit:

At the invitation of Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi, His Excellency Mr Ilter Turkmen made an official visit to Tunisia 9 through 12 September 1983.

The Turkish foreign minister was granted an audience by His Excellency Habib Bourguiba, president of the republic, to whom he conveyed fraternal greetings and feelings of esteem and respect from His Excellency Mr Kenan Evren, president of the Republic of Turkey. His Excellency Mr Ilter Turkmen was also granted an audience by His Excellency Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, and had talks with National Economy Minister Abdelaziz Lasram.

The official talks between the two ministers took place in the warm atmosphere of traditional friendship and fraternity which characterize Tunisian-Turkish relations. The two sides noted with satisfaction the excellent state of relations between the two countries, the spirit of mutual understanding which characterizes them, and the complete agreement on the questions discussed.

Reviewing the international situation, the two sides expressed once again their deep concern over the deterioration of the situation which now prevails in the Middle East as a result of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy against the Arab states, and its illegal practices in the occupied territories. The two sides reiterated their deep concern at the continuing occupation of Lebanon by Israeli troops, stressed the need for the complete and immediate withdrawal of those troops, and reaffirmed the importance they attach to the restoration of Lebanon's national unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. The two sides reiterated their conviction that there can be no just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict without Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate national rights, particularly their right to self-determination and the right to build their own independent state in Palestine.

The two sides also reaffirmed their support for the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and recalled the need for its participation in any process intended to lead to a solution to the conflict and the restoration of peace and security in the region.

The two sides deplored the continuation of hostilities between Iraq and Iran. In this connection they expressed the hope that a peaceful solution might be found to end the fratricidal war between the two Islamic countries as quickly as possible. In this context they reiterated their firm support for all efforts and attempts at mediation with a view to achieving that end.

Reviewing the development of their relations, the two sides reiterated their common desire to promote, intensify, and diversify cooperation between Turkey and Tunisia in all spheres of mutual interest. The ministers noted with satisfaction the increase in the volume of trade between the two countries and agreed to use all the necessary means to give their commercial and economic relations an exemplary character. The two sides reviewed the development of the various industrial projects decided on during Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali's official visit to Turkey in May 1983 and in the framework of the second session of the Tunisian-Turkish Joint Commission, and agreed to start implementing those projects.

In addition the two ministers expressed their desire to promote cooperation in the air and sea transport sectors and in the spheres of science, technology, and tourism. They also expressed with satisfaction their mutual desire to rapidly set in motion the agricultural cooperation projects, in keeping with the program drawn up at the second session of the Tunisian-Turkish Joint Commission.

His Excellency Mr Ilter Turkmen invited Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi to make an official visit to Turkey. Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi accepted that invitation with pleasure. The date of the visit will be fixed by joint agreement through diplomatic channels.

ETHIOPIA

Delegation Holds Talks in Moscow With Ustinov

EA171527 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] A Socialist Ethiopian delegation led by Comrade Brigadier General Gebreyes Woldehana, head of the Political Department of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and COPWE Central Committee member, has held talks in Moscow with Comrade Dmitriy Ustinov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, minister of defense, and marshal of the Soviet Union. According to TASS, the talks centered on bilateral issues. The Ethiopian delegation is paying the visit at the invitation of the Soviet Ministry of Defense, the Soviet Armed Forces, and the Navy Political Board.

Eritrean Rebels Disrupt Revolution Day Celebrations

EA182240 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1500 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Dergue Revolution Day celebrations were disrupted in Keren, Nefasit, Ginda [as received], and Dekamere towns by the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front [EPLF].

In Nefasit an EPLF unit attacked the enemy soldiers with heavy artillery, killing six Dergue soldiers including a lieutenant. Dergue fighters and helicopters were flying around Nefasit to celebrate the day.

Attacks by our popular forces forced people to disperse before the start of the celebrations in Ginda town, and stopped celebrations in Dekamere. In Keren, the EPLF forces planted timebombs in the town and (?dispersed) the enemy forces. The Dergue stopped the celebrations and started harassing innocent people throughout the day.

On 12 September in a 6-hour clash between the EPLF forces and an enemy force which was advancing to (?Guihat) from El Abred, 15 enemy soldiers were killed and 25 others wounded, two Kalashnikov assault rifles were captured, and the enemy forced to retreat.

KENYA

Foreign Minister on Normalization With Tanzania

EA170002 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] The prime minister of Tanzania, Mr Eduard Sokoine, has called for normalization of relations between Tanzania and Kenya and also cooperation among the former members of the now defunct East African Community. This was disclosed in a press statement issued by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Robert Ouko.

In the statement, Dr Ouko stated that Kenya welcomes moves by Tanzania on cooperation in the East African region. He explained that as His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi has reiterated in the past, Kenya is committed to normalization and improvement of relations with all her neighbors. Dr Ouko said that Kenya has noted the positive steps taken so far towards the settlement of the assets and liabilities of the defunct community.

He reaffirmed that Kenya will spare no effort to see that the prevailing mood for cooperation is not allowed to die down. The minister observed that the people of Kenya and Tanzania have a long history of cooperation and coexistence. He added that Kenya wishes, therefore, to see a normal state of affairs between it and Tanzania resumed. Dr Ouko said Kenya looks forward to more contacts with the relevant Tanzanian authorities so that these sentiments can be formalized for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

KENYA TIMES Comment

EA181552 Nairobi Kenya Times in English 18 Sep 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Reviving Brotherly Friendship"]

[Text] In recent months there have been extremely encouraging signs of improved relationship between Kenya and Tanzania. The Tanzanian prime minister, Mr Edward Sokoine, has already called for both the normalization of relations between the two countries and cooperation among the former members of the East African Community. Kenya's foreign minister, Dr Robert Ouko, has reciprocated by committing Kenya to the normalization and improvement of relations with all our neighbors.

For the people of the region this is the most welcome news since the death of the community. We sincerely welcome the move and, as Dr Ouko put it, look forward to more contacts with the relevant Tanzanian authorities so that these sentiments can be formalized for the mutual benefit of the people of Kenya and Tanzania.

The peoples of Kenya and Tanzania are one in nearly every sphere of life. We are bound not only by a common sociopolitical history but, what is more, by common blood. The communities, which stretch right across the common border, are perhaps the best example. Until the death of the E.A. Community the nationalsof each country could live and work wherever they wished. In fact, the two peoples were never conscious that they belonged to two distinct nations, and, of course, with very good reasons. How could they think so when they had lived and worked together as the same people for centuries? The boundaries set by the colonial government were only artificial boundaries meant to facilitate administrative arrangement. They never interfered with the common original ties that bound the peoples of the region together.

So, whatever went wrong after independence until we ended up in the eventual embarrassment of necessitating the closure of our common border, we should now forgive and turn over a new leaf. We know that the enemies of our two countries were happy to see us fall apart and must now be feeling bad that we are coming together in unity. During the painful period of the strained relations, they had everything to gain and citizens of the region had everything to lose.

In some respects, however, the strained relations were a blessing in disguise. Not until this happened did the citizens of the two countries begin to realise how economically interdependent they are. Not until the border closure did the Kenyans and Tanzanians begin to realise how close they had been and how badly they needed each other. For the first time, perhaps, the two peoples understood what it means to maintain goodneighborliness. For the first time, too, they have realised the folly of settling differences through confrontation rather than through dialogue.

The Kenya Government has clearly stated that it will spare no effort to see that the prevailing mood for cooperation is not allowed to die down. Serious diplomatic contacts and discussion should start for normalization of the relations without any preconditions.

SOMALIA

Minister of Agriculture Meets Chinese Premier

EA182122 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Excerpt] Somali Minister of Agriculture Challe Brigadier General Bile Rafle Gulaid was recently received at the People's Palace by Chinese Vice Premier Yao Yilin, The minister and the vice premier discussed the good relations existing between the SDR and the PRC, particularly in the field of economic cooperation. Challe Bile talked at length about the explosive situation in the Horn of Africa caused by the naked interference by Russia and its lackeys in Somali affairs. The minister handed the premier a message from President Challe Mohammed Siad Barre.

Rebels Say Troops Massacred by Barre Regime

LD172125 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] More details have been received of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia's attacks on Barre's forces stationed in the central and eastern regions of Somalia. Reports say that the Barre regime has killed soldiers who were critically wounded in the fighting. Further reports say that the towns where the soldiers were killed are Mataban, (Dabat), (Ghora Joma),and surrounding areas. Reports have confirmed that the Barre regime has only allowed some of the wounded soldiers to be taken to hospitals with civilians. It is known that this is not the first time the Barre regime has embarked on such criminal acts aimed at massacring the Somali forces.

Officials close to or related to Barre are currently buying places of refuge in foreign countries, having realized that the fall of the Barre regime is imminent. Reports reaching us from Mogadishu say that senior officials and Barre's relatives, one of them being Colonel Usman (Ana Ghel), are buying big houses in Nairobi, Kenya. Reports add that the officials are hiring Filipinos to manage their houses. Col Usman (Ana Ghel) is one of the people who have committed serious crimes against the Somali people. Recently he was engaged in the banned trading of ivory and other rare trophies which he used to sell on the world black market. Usman (Ana Ghel) was lately the head of (?the secret) anti-poaching unit in areas bordering Kenya.

TANZANIA

FRG Intercession With U.S. on Namibia Asked

EA170248 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1800 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Bonn: The minister for foreign affairs, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, said today that African frontline states were seeking West Germany's support in persuading the U.S. to stop linking Namibian independence to a Cuban withdrawal from Angola. Speaking at a news conference after talks with the West German foreign minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Ndugu Salim said he had appealed for Bonn's support in returning to the negotiations on Namibia to the framework of UN Resolution 435.

Ndugu Salim is the second representative of the six frontline states to visit Bonn this week. He was preceded by President Kaunda of Zambia, who discussed the Namibian settlement with Mr Genscher and the West German chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl.

Ndugu Salim said there are two ways of solving the Namibian issue. One way is the continuation of the liberation war — a possibility, which, he warned, would have vast [word indistinct] for both the population of Namibia itself and for the entire region. The other way, he said, was the continuation of efforts, both national, to reach a negotiated settlement.

Nyerere Calls for Increased Food Production

EA172142 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Iringa: President Nyerere has asked Tanzanians to increase the production of food and cash crops to save the country from its economic crisis. Addressing party and government officials in Iringa Region after a week-long visit to the region, Mwalimu said although there has been some increase in the production of food crops, nonetheless annual statistics show Tanzania is faced with two problems: First, he said, it is true the nation consumes more than it produces, and second, the nation is faced with a balance of payments problem because imported commodities do not correspond with those exported. [sentence as heard] In this situation, Mwalimu warned that Tanzanians are faced with two steps to alleviate the situation: Citizens will have to pay more taxes for internal expenditure and seek foreign loans to get foreign currency.

President Nyerere also said Tanzania is unable to pay its foreign debts because production does not show any surplus as a result of fluctuating commodity prices in world markets. Resulting from this, Mwalimu Nyerere warned, there is no solution except to increase produciton. Factories which are now producing below capacity because of lack of raw materials should be provided with the raw materials. Mwalimu leaves Iringa tomorrow for Dar es Salaam.

CAMEROON

Biya Addresses Foreign Journalists on Recent Events

AB161645 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the CNU [Cameroon National Union] party, His Excellency Paul Biya, has called on the foreign news media to be well informed about the situation in Cameroon in order to render a more objective account of events in the country. In an informal news conference with the foreign press in Yaounde published today, the head of state denied the talks of a conflict of authority between the party and state leadership. Referring to the political situation in the country, the president noted that the atmosphere was calm and serene, pointing out that there is no tribal confrontation nor any antagonism between the north and south of the country. He also said that there is no religious animosity, for Cameroon is a secular state.

President Paul Biya said the economic situation is sound. He, however, added that measures were being taken to improve on health, housing, education, and nutrition. The head of state told foreign journalists that true democracy and a free society will be established in Cameroon. He said it is necessary to introduce free debate within the leading organs of the party, likewise free elections so that elected members be the true choice of the people.

Reviewing the banking situation in the country, the president warned that banks were not charitable organizations and said measures will be taken to recover monies loaned out to unreliable customers. Talking about public corporations, the head of state said some of them were not well run. He revealed that some agroindustries must be sold to individuals. President Paul Biya said that it might be necessary for the public to know how much it got from oil and the part it played in our economy though this revelation might be detrimental to the country's total faith in agriculture as the bulwark of its economy.

Asked about the prospects of reconciliation with the former head of state, President Biya said it is premature now to talk of reconciliation. On the prospect of a constitutional amendment, the president said it was possible that constitutional reforms will be proposed to the National Assembly.

CHAD

Habre Denounces Al-Qadhdhafi at Muslim Gathering

AB180735 Paris AFP in French 1210 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 17 Sep (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre has described Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as a "satan" because, he felt, the head of the Libyan revolution has "modified the Koran" and adapted it to his own vision of the world, and also because he is "the surest ally of the big satan, which is international communism."

The Chadian head of state, who received a Muslim group on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha feast, accused the leader of the Libyan revolution of being the aggressor against Chad, "half of which is occupied by Libya and its mercenaries. It is our duty and our absolute right to ensure that Chad has the means to safeguard its independence and territorial intergrity," he stated, stressing that the Chadian people are peaceful people who only ask to live within the borders inherited from colonialism.

On his part, the imam of Ndjamena said that France is not engaged in a crusade in Chad, referring to a recent statement by Col al-Qadhdhafi in which he accused France and the United States of waging a war on the Muslims of Chad and Lebanon.

MALI

Upper Volta's Sankara Visits Bamako 16 September

AFP Report on Arrival

AB161510 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Bamako, Sep. 16 (AFP) — Upper Voltan leader Thomas Sankara arrived here today for a short visit to neighbouring Mali, his first trip abroad since he came to power in a left-wing coup in the west African state on August 4. Captain Sankara, who heads Upper Volta's new ruling Revolutionary Council, is accompanied by his Foreign Minister Arba Diallo, Information Minister Adama Toure, and Secretary of State for the Interior and Public Security Ernest Ouedraogo. He was greeted by Mali's head of state General Moussa Traore.

Captain Sankara said on his arrival: "The Voltan people are more than ever mobilised and conscious that the time of revolution is a time of responsibility and of knowing one's enemies, which are international imperialism... And the conservative forces that are its allies in Upper Volta."

He and Gen. Traore were to have a session of private talks today before the delegation returns to Ouagadougou tonight. Upper Volta and Mali have a border controversy, which the two governments have said they are ready to settle amicably.

Traore, Sankara Speeches

AB162115 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Excerpts] The visit of Captain Thomas Sankara, the Upper Voltan head of state, to our country has ended. This afternoon, a plenary session was held by both parties at the conference hall of the Council of Ministers at Koulouba. With President Moussa Traore were Djibril Diallo, political secretary of the Central Executive Bureau; Mohamedun Agamani, secretary for external relations; Ngoulet Sibi, secretary for organization; Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Lieutenant Colonel Abdrahamane Maiga, minister of interior; and the secretary general to the presidency of the government.

On the Upper Voltan side were Capt Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], accompanied by Arba Diallo, his foreign minister, and Ernest Ouedraogo, secretary of state for interior and security. We must also note the presence of Ibrahima Fall, Senegalese minister of higher education. Two speeches were made during this plenary session. The first was by President Traore. He pointed out that the friendship and the confidence between Upper Voltans and Malians are a precious asset which favors the strengthening of our relations in all fields.

[Begin Traore recording] Mr President and dear brother, distinguished members of the CNR, and of the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen: The people of Mali and their party, the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM], their government, and myself see the fact that you have chosen Mali as your first stage for contact with the outside world as a mark of high esteem and deep friendship. We must continue to strengthen our relations on the basis of mutual confidence, understanding, and active solidarity. This is why today's meeting has a very particular meaning. It will enable us, I am convinced, to lay the foundations for exemplary cooperation. For my part, I can assure you of the total availability of the people of Mali and their government to work toward the achievement of our common goals. Friendship and confidence between Upper Volta and Mali have always been a precious asset that has worked in favor of intensifying our relations in all fields. We are following with interest the Upper Voltan revolution, which you have been leading since last 4 August. We are convinced that it will live up to the expectations of the African people in general and the Upper Voltan people in particular.

Mr President, the situation in African remains alarming. Hotbeds of tension have been created on the continent, thus jeopardizing its stability and its harmonious development. Mali and Upper Volta must pool their efforts to strengthen our continental organization so that it can fully play its role in solving problems facing the African people. Mr President and dear brother, to conclude, I would like to renew to you the commitment of the Malian people, their party, and their government to work hand in hand with the brother people of Upper Volta, the CNR, and the Upper Voltan Government in order to achieve our common goals of peace and the prosperity of the Malian and Upper Voltan people. I thank you. [end recording]

In his reply, the CNR chairman, Capt Thomas Sankara, stressed that he who loves his people cannot launch a war against another people and that by extending its hand to Mali, Upper Volta intends to consolidate the basis of its revolution and to give itself the means of countering all activities of division. Listen to Capt Thomas Sankara.

[Begin Sankara recording] Mr President and dear brother, ministers, honorable representatives of the UDPM: I must thank you for the words you have just said about the Upper Voltan people, their leaders, and their revolution. Our brief visit — too short in our opinion — is a militant, revolutionary, and African task which demands that we move toward strengthening the ties existing between the peoples of the African Continent, between people who have been mobilized, and between all the people who want to win their real and total freedom. The people of Mali, — the great people of Mali — the people that we are saluting, are today receiving African brothers — Upper Voltan brothers — revolutionary brothers since 4 August 1983. We believe that history and geography bind the Malian and Upper Voltan people, but the future binds us more than that. It is a future which we Upper Voltans see as one that is made of battles, a series of battles against the forces that are still holding Africa and against the forces which still keep our people under their domination and their oppression. International imperialism, which lives on the exploitation of the people, which lives on the division and opposition among the people, and international capitalism which subjects our people of the so-called Third World to its shameless and cynical exploitation cannot understand and tolerate any conscious and responsible rapprochement between African people.

Thus, it is our duty and your duty to strengthen all the bases that enable us to gather all the moral and material energies in order to force out all those enemies of Africa and all those enemies of the African people who have so looted our popular masses. Our underdevelopment is caused by the fact that these enemies of this development, of your development, are still powerful and keep us in ignorance. They made us ignore our capabilities to decide on our own fate and to decide the material and moral conditions of our existence. They made us ignore all our resources. In our view, our main resource is the people. Imperialism trembles before the mobilized people. Imperialism trembles before a united people. By extending their hand to the brotherly people of Mali [words indistinct] to strengthen the basis of their revolution and intends to give itself the means of countering the enemies who are already desperately on our trail, because they are becoming increasing conscious that Africa is waking up.

However, we must deplore the hotbeds of tension artificially supported, created, and developed by our common enemies. These hotbeds of tension are aimed at perpetuating the belief that Africans are and remain big children and nothing more than big children. We believe that Africans are in a position to solve their problems among themselves and that there is no need to call on foreign troops to occupy (?any part of Africa). We deplore and condemn all forms of intervention in any problem between Africans. Those who love their people must love other people. Those who refuse to wage war against their people must reject waging war against other people. Those who refuse to bring grief and misery to their people must also reject bringing grief and misery to other people. The Chadian tragedy is of concern to us. The brotherly people are suffering and each day that passes, they suffer more and more. As Africans, as revolutionary militants of Upper Volta, we cannot at any time understand that the solution of this painful Chadian issue is based on the confrontation between the two camps. We cannot understand that some people are interfering in the issue by supporting one side or the other in order to find a solution to the problem between people who, in fact, only want peace.

We cannot also understand that African brothers are suffering and dying in silence, with total impunity and even with the blessing of some people somewhere in southern Africa. We condemn this and we will mobilize ourselves against it. We condemn it and we extend our hand to all African people who want to and must condemn it. The people of Mali, the great people of Mali who fight their internal enemies, must in our view also fight our common enemies, who are these racists in southern Africa. As long as racism is not fought, as long as we do not dare denounce it, our complicity will only be a crime against our own brothers. Truth is revolutionary, and revolutionary truth must be proclaimed everywhere. This is why we are convinced that here in a land of freedom and also of struggle we must proclaim that Africa must unite its energies in the face of our common enemies, and against international imperialism, its local puppet, and its international allies. We are convinced that the Malian and Upper Voltan people will be able to provide an example of cooperation and concrete unity. They will also be able to convince other people watching us, who also are rightly waging a fierce battle against our common enemies in a very determined manner.

Our visit has been short, too short in my opinion, but I must say on behalf of the delegation accompanying me that we were warmly welcomed. We do not doubt this. I must say in particular that we felt as though we were in Upper Volta right from the time we set foot on Malian soil. I want this to be clear in the mind of everyone. I want every Malian to understand that Upper Voltan soil is first and foremost the soil of the people of Upper Volta and Mali. As leaders, we have no right to fail. We cannot allow the unity, union, and fraternity between the Upper Voltan and Malian people to be the concern of only the leaders. We must not go against history; we must not oppose the desires of our people. I am pleased to note that you and I worked toward the well understood interests of our people. I thank the president, the ministers, and the representatives of the UDPM. In particular, I thank the Malian people with the hope that we will return here for a more lengthy contact and visit in order to assess with you the successes which we have continued to achieved. Long live the friendship between the Upper Voltan and Malian people. Long live the common struggle which we are waging against our common enemies. Long live free Africa rid of all its enemies. I thank you. [applause][end recording]

Traore, Sankara Radio Interviews

AB171000 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0730 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Head of state Captain Thomas Sankara returned to Ouagadougou at about 2300 last night from Bamako where he visted in the morning at the head of an important delegation of which the minister of foreign affairs and the secretary of state for the interior and security were members. While in Bamako, the head of state held very fruitful discussions with his Malian counterpart, General Moussa Traore. This is what Ouatamou Lamien has to say about this brief visit to Mali.

[Begin Lamien recording] Yes, a brief visit — this is true but particularly significant. By choosing the African soil of Mali as the first stage of his contact with the outside world, Capt Thomas Sankara performed his duty toward the two countries which have a common historical and geographical identity and which have several things to do to achieve exemplary cooperation. Capt Thomas Sankara, who was welcomed by President Moussa Traore, later held the first discussions, which lasted more than 1 hour, with his Malian counterpart. These discussions continued during the intimate luncheon which the two heads of state held at the residence of the Malian head of state. The working session that the two delegations held at Koulouba did not last long. The final communique marking the end of the discussions will be issued at the same time in Ouagadougou and Bamako.

As we wait for the final communique, it is worth noting that the statement made by President Moussa Traore soon after our departure clearly shows that the Malians were very satisfied and that confidence prevailed between the two fraternal countries. Mali, President Moussa Traore said, is not worried about the Upper Voltan revolution, and I can even give you the assurance that Mali will help Upper Volta to carry out its revolution. This statement needs no comment. Will you please listen to President Moussa Traore, who, in the first place, expressed Mali's appreciation for the choice of Mali by Capt Thomas Sankara for his first presidential visit. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Traore] Yes, I just said during my statement at the plenary session of the Upper Voltan and Malian delegations that we are very happy that our brother and friend, President Thomas Sankara, has chosen the African soil of Mali for his first contact with the outside world.

[Question by unidentified reporter] People say the Upper Voltan revolution scares Upper Volta's neighboring countries. Is this the case of the sister country of the Republic of Mali too?

[Traore] I told my brother — my younger brother — President Thomas Sankara that the people of Mali, their party — the Malian People's Democratic Union [UDPM] — and their government will do everything possible to help our brother and friend, the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], and the Upper Voltan Government to carry out the Upper Voltan revolution. I assure you that we will support it.

[Question] A process for the solution of the dispute between Upper Volta and Mali was announced at the level of The Hague International Court of Justice, or at least it was initiated. Mr President, do you think that Capt Thomas Sankara's recent pronouncements open new prospects acceptable to Mali?

[Traore] This first contact has enabled President Thomas Sankara and myself to agree that the disputes — African disputes — must be settled among Africans. This is what has led us to go beyond The Hague International Court of Justice in order to find a bilateral solution to these border disputes that have existed between Malian and Upper Voltan leaders. I am sure that we will arrive at a peaceful, rational, fraternal, and friendly solution to this problem.

[Question] A last question, Mr President. How was President Thomas Sankara's statement on Mali's return to the West African Monetary Union [UMOA] received? Do you hope to find a solution to this problem during the next summit meeting of the UMOA?

[Traore] I do not think I can answer this question because Mali is not a member of the UMOA. Therefore, the forthcoming summit does not interest us and does not concern us. [end recording]

As you must have noticed, undoubtedly, the two heads of state envisage other means of settling the border problem. Without passing through The Hague International Court of Justice, the two brotherly countries can find a solution to this problem themselves. According to them, an African solution comes from the sense of dignity finally regained. They have agreed that when there is a dispute between two brotherly peoples, they must be able to settle in their own way all differences — either real or artificial — that may crop up between them. What conclusion has head of state Capt Thomas Sankara to draw from his visit to Bamako? I will ask you to listen to him talking to our Brother Mathieu Kone from Radio Mali.

[Begin recording] [Kone] Mr President, as you are getting ready to leave Bamako, what conclusions can you draw about this short visit you have paid to Mali?

[Sankara] To be brief, my conclusions are that I have not regretted my coming here because I have met my African brothers, who were very understanding and who convinced me that as Africans, our mistakes lie in our failure to try to know each other better and to try as much as possible to have links among each other. I did what I came to do in Mali and I am sure that it was fruitful. I had wanted to meet my brother and friend, President Moussa Traore. I had also wanted to demonstrate that the people of Upper Volta have and will continue to have nothing but feelings of fraternity for the people of Mali. And I am sure I can say that I am returning home satisfied with my mission accomplished.

[Kone] Mr President, The French-African summit meeting is drawing near. Recently, there were French envoys in Ouagadougou. Will you please tell us your views on this issue?

[Sankara] The French-African summit — since this is what it is now called — will soon take place, and it appears to me that most of the African heads of state invited to attend will be able to do so with the French head of state. It will give them the opportunity to meet each other and to discuss their common problems. We have also been invited and we have accepted this invitation. We are particularly hopeful to be present at Vittel where we will be able to explain Upper Volta's position on and understanding of bilateral relations between Upper Volta and France on one hand, and between Upper Volta and the other African states on the other, and in general between France and Africa. We will fully exploit every opportunity that will be given us to state clearly our revolutionary conviction as far as relations are concerned. Consequently, we will not run away from dialogue, we will not run away from discussions, and we will ask to be allowed to proclaim louder our views in a sincere and convincing manner. [end recording]

Border Agreement Signed

AB181215 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Agreement between the Malian and Upper Voltan governments on submitting their border dispute to the International Court of Justice, issued in Bamako on 16 September]

[Text] Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Upper Volta relating to the submission of the border dispute between the two countries to the International Court of Justice. The Government of the Republic of Mali and the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta, desiring to reach with the least possible delay a settlement of the border dispute between them and to carry out a final delimitation and demarcation of their common border, have agreed on the following.

Article 1: The above contracting parties agree to submit their dispute relating to the delimitation of their common border to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the compromise reached between the two governments.

Article 2: The two parties agree to submit the case through joint actions to the president of the International Court of Justice for a decision under Article 26, paragraph 1, of the court rules, by a court chamber composed of five members, including the presiding judge. During consultations, the parties will through joint action make proposals to the president on the selection of members of this chamber.

Article 3: The present agreement comes into effect on the date of its signature by the undersigned, who are duly authorized by their respective governments to sign the present agreement, and will be signed in two copies.

Signed in Bamako on 16 September 1983, for the Government of Republic of Mali, Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; and for the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta, Arba Diallo, minister of foreign affairs.

Joint Communique Issued

AB181050 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Joint communique on visit of Upper Voltan President Thomas Sankara to Mali issued in Bamako on 16 September 1983]

[Text] Captain Thomas Sankara, president of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and Upper Voltan head of state, carried out a friendly working visit to the Republic of Mali on Friday, 16 September 1983. The Upper Voltan head of state as well as the high-level delegation accompanying him were met by General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and president of the republic, accompanied by members of the central executive bureau of the government. The Upper Voltans residing in Mali, who also welcomed him, came to pay tribute to the Upper Voltan head of state for his actions since his accession to the presidency in Upper Volta. After a private talk, the two heads of state continued their discussions surrounded by the close associates. The following officials participated in the discussion which took place in the conference room of the Council of Ministers in Koulouba.

From the Upper Voltan side: Zagre Kinangourouma, Christophe Saba, Denis Kikaba, and Passake Ouedraogo, all members of the CNR; Miss Henriette Ouedraogo and Aicha Traore, both members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution; Arba Diallo, minister of foreign affairs; Nongma Ernest Ouedraogo, secretary of state to the interior and security; Paul Nikiema, magistrate; Diallo Souleymane of the Ministry of Interior and Security; Marcel Ouedraogo, technical adviser to the minister of foreign affairs; Paul Desire Kabore, director of bilateral cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Paul Minongo, division head at the department for political affairs; Marie Sawadogo, of the legal department; Prospere Kokouma, head of department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Marc Kona Kibora, Upper Voltan Institute of Geography.

From the Malian side: Djibril Diallo, political secretary of the Central Executive Bureau of the UDPM; Mohamadou ad Hamani, secretary for foreign affairs of the Central Executive Bureau of the UDPM; Bui Sibe, secretary for organization of the Central Executive Bureau of the UDPM; Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Lieutenant Colonel Abdrahamani Maiga, minister of interior; Major Issa Kongoiba, minister of justice and keeper of the seals; Siaragatou Cisse, Mali's ambassador to Upper Volta; and Tidane Eguisse, foreign policy adviser to the president.

During their talks, the two heads of state expressed great satisfaction over the cordial and frank atmosphere which now characterizes the fraternal and friendly relations between the two countries united by invaluable ties. The two heads of state thus studied all the problems through a sincere and faternal dialogue. In fact, the two heads of state, in response to the desire of the two peoples, are convinced that all problems relating to borders between African countries, problems which are a result of colonization, should never be a source of conflict between the peoples of the continent, especially between the Upper Voltan and Malians peoples who are united by so many unbreakable ties. The two heads of state also decided to do everything possible to find a permanent and quick solution to the border issue. In this regard, they agreed to submit the issue to the International Court of Justice while continuing the bilateral dialogue with the existing ad hoc structures.

The Malian people, their party, and their government took this opportunity to express great satisfaction over the positive progress of relations between the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Upper Volta. Thus, the two heads of states stressed the imperative need to develop bilateral cooperation between the two countries as desired by their peoples. In this regard, they agreed on the need to set up a large joint cooperation commission, the ideal framework to give a decisive impetus and to speed up the positive progress of fraternal relations. They agreed to explore all means and to take all appropriate measures to strengthen the atmosphere of cordiality and understanding between the two countries and provide the necessary conditions for the establishment of positive relations of good-neighborliness.

Examining subregional issues, the two heads of state expressed great satisfaction over the political will being shown in west Africa to carry out the economic integration of states through organizations like the West African Community, [words indistinct], the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, [words indistinct] the Niger River Basin Authority and the ECOWAS. They reiterated their strong support for achieving a harmonious regional entity based on a strong spirit of solidarity.

On the situation in Africa, the two heads of state renewed their adherence to the decisions adopted by the 19th summit of heads of state and governments held in June 1983 in Addis Ababa. They expressed satisfaction over the atmosphere of tolerance and great wisdom which prevailed during this conference, which was decisive for Africa's destiny. They urgently call on brotherly African countries to ensure that the principles and objectives in the OAU Charter triumph over all the current obstacles.

Concerning the crisis in Africa, the two heads of state said that they should be resolved without any intervention. On the crisis in Western Sahara, the two heads of state expressed their strong attachment to the implementation of the resolution adopted in June 1983 in Addis Ababa, calling on the two warring parties, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front, to carry out direct negotiations in order to install a cease-fire and to carry out a referendum.

The two heads of state expressed great concern over the situation in Chad. They believe that the only solution to this crisis lies in national reconciliation, the end to all foreign intervention, and to respect the territorial integrity of the country. On southern Africa, the two heads of state reiterated their strong condemnation of the racist minority regime of South Africa. They renewed their total support for the struggle being carried out by the Namibian people to attain their independence and sovereignity under the wise leadership of SWAPO. They also asserted their strong support for the frontline states. They condemn any maneuver aimed at impeding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978, the only true basis for the just and permanent settlement of the Namibian problem.

On the Middle East, the two heads of state expressed concern over the tension that continues to prevail in this region. In this regard, their reiterated their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole representative. In this regard, the two heads of state stressed that a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis can only be found through the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territories and through the attainment of national rights by the Palestinian people, especially their right to an independent state. The two heads of state reiterated their strong support for the Lebanese people in their struggle for independence and national sovereignity without any constraints. The two heads of state renewed their attachment to the principle of nonalignment which should enable Third World countries to assert their independence, to make a positive contribution to the maintainance of peace in the world, and to the establishment of a new, more just world order.

His Excellency Capt Thomas Sankara, president of the CNR and Upper Voltan head of state, on his own behalf and on behalf of his delegation, thanked his brother and friend Gen Moussa Traore, for the exceptionally warm and fraternal welcome they received during their stay in Mali. Capt Thomas Sankara invited His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore to carry out a friendly working visit to Upper Volta. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date of the visit will be set later through diplomatic channels.

Issuded in Bamako on 16 September 1983.

Signed for the Republic of Upper Volta, His Excellency Capt Thomas Sankara, president of the CNR and head of state.

Signed for the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM and president of the republic.

NIGERIA

Government To Establish Embassy in Sofia

AB161540 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Nigeria plans to establish an embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria. This indication was given in Abuja today by President Shehu Shagari when he received the outgoing Bulgarian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Aleksandur Atanasov. He said that the proposal was being considered in an effort to enhance relations between the two countries and to take adequate care of the growing number of Nigerian students. President Shagari told the ambassador that Nigeria was a young nation and needed cooperation with other countries to promote mutual understanding. He recalled his state visit to Bulgaria last year during which he had fruitful discussions with leaders of that country on matters of mutual interest.

Replying, Mr Atanasov said that his duty tour to Nigeria had enlightened him on the country's great protentials. He congratulated the president on his reelection which he described as a decision in the right direction. The outgoing ambassador expressed the hope that relations between Nigeria and Bulgaria would continue to grow and the links in trade and commerce expanded. Mr Atanosov, who is leaving Nigeria on reassignment back in Sofia, was accompanied by the commercial counselor in the Bulgarian Embassy, Mr Irvin Guvedusky. A Radio Nigeria State House correspondent said that in appreciation President Shagari and the ambassador exchanged gifts during the courtesy call.

Fedeco Announces Oyo Senatorial Election Results

AB161140 Lagos NAN in English 1125 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Lagos, Sep 16 (NAN) — The NPN [National Party of Nigeria] has won four of the five senatorial seats so far declared in Oyo State, the Fedeco [Federal Electoral Commission] announced in Lagos yesterday. According to the results, Chief Layi Joseph (NPN), won the Oshun II senatorial district seat with 444,226 votes out of the total votes of 597,854 cast. J.S. Adelowo (UPN) [Unity Party of Nigeria] scored 131,702, while Jire Oyedimeji (NPP) [Nigeria People's Party] polled 15,929 votes. James Fakoye (NPP) [as received] polled 2,464 votes, the NAP [Nigeria Advance Party] and PRP [People's Redemption Party] which fielded no candidates, polled 1,814 and 1,719 votes respectively.

In Oyo senatorial district, Y.A. Adisa (NPN), polled 246,779 votes of the total votes of 351,830. J.A. Adewuyi (UPN) received 92,728 while A.G. Omolewu (NPP) scored 5,713 votes. S. Oladimeji (GNPP) [Great Nigeria People's Party] polled 2,329 votes while the NAP candidate, E.A. Elegbede, polled 2,063 votes. PRP did not field any candidate but received 2,210 votes.

In Ibadan/Ibarapa senatorial district, Chief Layi Fawola (NPN) got 747,749 of the total votes of 957,069 cast. Layi Ogunsola (UPN) polled 185,175 while Alhaji B. Abanise (GNPP) polled3,646 votes. The NPP candidate, Yekini Laniba, scored

14,109 votes while D.K. Siba (PRP) polled 2,995 votes. NAP fielded no candidate but received 3,395 votes.

In Oshun I senatorial district, H.A. Akinboro (NPN) scored 462,140 while the incumbent, Senator Laogun Adeoye, (UPN) came second with 112,481 votes. The NPP candidate, Adebayo Adeoye, scored 9,485 while Adebayo Aremy (GNPP) polled 1,020 votes. Both the NAP and the PRP, which fielded no candidates, received 879 and 778 votes respectively.

Further Oyo Results

AB162130 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Excerpt] The Federal Electoral Commission has announced the last result in the senatorial election held in Oyo State. It is in respect of Ife Ejasha senatorial district where Chief Olatunju Adeshaki of the Unity Party of Nigeria won, polling 454,697 votes. The closest contestant to him, Alhaji Moshud Balogun, representing the National Party of Nigeria, recorded 387,224 votes.

Oyo State Assembly Elections Set for 19 September

AB181406 Lagos NAN in English 1350 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Lagos, Sept. 18 (NAN) — Elections into the Oyo State House of Assembly would be conducted tomorrow, Sept. 19, according to a release by the Fedeco [Federal Electoral Commission] issued in Lagos. The election into the 126 constituencies in the state was earlier scheduled for Sept. 3, but was postponed due to civil disturbances that followed the release of the result of the gubernatorial election.

Judge Overturns Election of Kano Senator

AB181415 Lagos NAN in English 1400 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Kano, Sep 18 (NAN) — A Kano court judge, Mr Justice Raphael Rowland, on Friday declared the election of Alhaji Yakubu Mohaammed Na-Allah (PRP) [People's Redemption Party] as senator-elect null and void. Alhaji Yakubu won the Aug. 20 election into the Senate with 169,782 votes in the Kano south-west district.

Delivering judgment in a petition filed by Senator Hamisu Musa, also of the PRP, challenging the election of Alhaji Yakubu, Mr Justice Rowland said that the respondent could not have won the election since he was not validity nominated and sponsored by the PRP. The judge said that from the evidence adduced before the court by the petitioner's counsel, Mr. Kehinde Sofola, he was satisfied that Senator Hamisu and not Alhaji Rakubu was duly nominated by the PRP to contest the August election.

He ordered the Fedeco [Federal Electoral Commission] to conduct fresh elections into the the senatorial district and said that Senator Musa was qualified to contest the election since it had been established that he was duly nominated by the PRP. The judge awarded N1,500 cost against the first respondent.

TOGO

Eyadema Receives Chad Delegation, Habre Message

AB181400 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese people and president of the republic, this morning received in audience a two-man Chadian delegation at his private residence in Lome. The delegation delivered a message from President Hissein Habre to Gen Eyadema. Present at the audience was Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Congratulates Nicaragua on National Day

AB170745 Paris AFP in French 1105 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, 16 Sep (AFP) — Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the ruling National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state of Upper Volta, on Thursday addressed his "warm and militant congratulations" to the president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, on the occasion of the independence anniversary of the country.

"This anniversary takes place at a time when the valiant people of Nicaragua are fighting against international imperialism and its henchmen who are frantically attempting to alienate their freedom, and their aspiration for peace and democracy," President Sankara stressed in his message. The Upper Voltan leader said he is convinced "that joining their efforts, our two peoples will contribute to the building of a just and prosperous world, freed from imperialism, neocolonialism, and racism thanks to their awareness of the common destiny which links them."

CDR's To Be Established Within Armed Forces

AB160907 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1310 GMT 15 Sep 83

[Text] Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] are to be set up within the Armed Forces. This was disclosed to the press this morning by the commander in chief of the national Armed Forces. Following is our interview with Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani concerning the creation of CDR's within the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] Major, since the 4 August 1983 revolution in Upper Volta, numerous CDR's have been created throughout the country. One of the main characteristics of these CDR's is that they are generally composed of civilians. Could one envisage the creation of CDR's within the Armed Forces?

[Lingani] I thank you for giving me the opportunity to remove a taboo. As you know, the Armed Forces have always been considered a separate body and institution; I would even say a sort of state within a state. As far as we are concerned, a new conception of matters relating to the Armed Forces must develop; we have, therefore, decided to create CDR's within the Armed Forces.

What is the purpose of these CDR's within the Armed Forces? The task of these CDR's will be to defend the revolution in all its forms and to unmask and denounce the people's enemies, the reactionaries, and the counterrevolutionaries within the Armed Forces. We have no illusions: There are counterrevolutionaries and reactionary elements within the Armed Forces. We believe that the CDR's will be able to sensitize and objectively inform the soldiers in order to help raise their political awareness. They will explain the objectives and directives of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] as well as the aspirations of the masses. They will also have the task of mobilizing the soldiers around the objectives of the CNR. In short, our objective in creating CDR's within the Armed Forces is to ensure that our army finally becomes a people's army. We already defended this idea during the period of the People's Salvation Council. We want an army in the service of the people, integrated within the people, an army abreast with the realities of the people and entirely engaged in defending the real interests of the people. In addition to its traditional mission of guaranteeing the country's internal and external security and defending its territorial integrity — which demands that it should be operational — our Armed Forces willundertake concrete tasks of development. In short, we think the Armed Forces must also resolutely engage in the current revolutionary process. We believe that as full citizens and patriots, the soldiers must not remain indifferent to this process.

[Unidentified reporter] Major, at the beginning of your statement, you talked of removing a taboo, whereas we know that tradition demands that military men should not engage in politics. We know that the tasks of the CDR's include political duties. Do you think it is a good thing to introduce politics in the Armed Forces through the CDR's?

[Lingani] You were right to talk of taboo because up until now people have pretended that soldiers should not engage in politics and yet military men have always been seen engaging in politics. This is a reality people have tried to deny: The soldier is first and foremost a citizen, and it is not normal to deny him the normal rights of a citizen. We believe that the soldier must not remain outside politics but must take interest in everything that is going on in his country and contribute to his country's development. The introduction of politics within the Armed Forces is not — as some detractors would believe — a factor to destabilize the cohesion of the Armed Forces. I don't think so. I think a well understood and well explained policy can strengthen cohesion within the Armed Forces. There is no question of continuing to do things without understanding them. [end recording]

ANGOLA

De Almeida Addresses Party Conference on Neto

AB152105 Luanda ANGOP in French 1050 GMT 15 Sep 83

[Text] Luanda, 15 September (ANGOP) — Roberto de Almeida, secretary of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party, said in Luanda on Tuesday that the struggle of the Angolan people is linked to that of the world because it falls within the framework of the overall struggle of humanity to wipe out exploitation of man by man.

Speaking at a conference debate to mark the day of the "national hero," Roberto de Almeida highlighted the life of the illustrious personality, Antonio Agostinho Neto, who was a guide, poet, doctor, politician, and revolutionary statesman. He said that speaking of his life means speaking of the history of the MPLA and of the struggle of the Angolan people, to whom he devoted his whole life.

On ideology the secretary of the Central Committee of the party added that President Agostinho Neto always had in mind that the problem of the independence of Nambia and South Africa also concerns the Angolan people because it represents a valiant contribution for the entire African Continent, which is subjugated to underdevelopment and economic dependence.

Members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party, the government, and diplomatic corps accredited to the People's Republic of Angola, representatives of mass organizations, as well as fighters of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola participated in this conference debate.

Official Addresses Journalists on Refugees

MB180955 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Comrade Robert dos Santos, the state secretary for social affairs, said in Luanda that Angola is determined to continue to assist Namibian and South African refugees until they are able to return to their fatherland independent and free of the criminal apartheid regime. Addressing a group of newsmen who are in Angola to familiarize themselves with the refugee situation, Robert dos Santos said that the assistance rendered by international institutions to meet refugees' needs is inadequate, although he added that there is enough food.

Robert dos Santos also said that in Angola refugees live in their own settlements and are provided with necessary security, which enables them to carry out activities such as agriculture and cattle raising for their own subsistence. The state secretary for social affairs added that in Angola human relations among peoples are equal and that the Angolan people share the little they have with the refugees.

(Frank Munsinya), the ANC deputy representative in Angola, who also held a meeting with the newsmen, had the same views as those expressed by the state secretary for social affairs. He said that, despite the difficulties facing Angola, it has been providing moral and material support to South African refugees mainly in the fields of education, health, and food. What makes the People's Republic of Angola outstanding is not only its support for the liberation struggle of the South African people but its commitment to support the struggle of the oppressed peoples the world over, (Frank Munsinya) pointed out. He was also of the opinion that the assistance from the international community to about 1,500 South African refugees found in Angola and to hundreds of their other compatriots who have been crossing the borders of the apartheid state in search of refuge in neighbouring countries is inadequate.

Official Source Reports on Military Actions

MB181010 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Over the past few days our Armed Forces carried out a number of actions to neutralize the armed gangsters infiltrated into our national territory from the illegally occupied Namibia. This was revealed by the Angolan News Agency [ANGOP], citing an official source. One of the actions, in which an enemy base was completely destroyed, took place some 50 km from Cazombo in Moxico Province.

Meanwhile, an enemy attempt to ambush three vehicles some 34 km from Malange resulted on 20 casualties on the side of our people's enemy. Also, according to the same source, the Angolan Armed Forces killed seven elements of a UNITA puppet group some 12 km from Jamba, Huila Province, where they were trying to establish themselves.

The remaining operations took place some 62 km from Huambo, where 6 days ago the enemy suffered 15 casualties and 1 man taken prisoner. Finally, some 25 km from the Bela Vista, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola killed 32 enemy elements and took 10 prisoners. At the same time, 26 women and 25 children, whom the puppets in the service of Pretoria kept in their power by use of force, were freed.

UNITA Communique Calls for Negotiations

MB161200 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Communique from the office of the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola dated 5 September 1983, signed by UNITA President Jonas Malheiro Savimbi]

[Text] In continuation of the general offensive launched by UNITA forces against Cubans, Russians, and soldiers of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], the destination of which is the north of the country, we inform you about the following outstanding attacks.

Huambo Province — our forces took Cuma and Bailundo on 27 August 1983. Benguela Province — our forces took Bocoio on 29 August 1983. Lunda Province — our forces took Quitapa and the military post across the (Lui) bridge, between (Chamuteba) and (Chandeau), on 27 August 1983. Bie Province — the town of Chinguar was taken on 30 August 1983. Cuanza Norte — Pamba along the Angolan railway line between Lucala and Ndalatando was taken on 31 August 1983. Moxico Province — (Lago Dilolo) and (Chafinda) were taken on 3 September 1983. Cuanza Sul Province — (Cambondo) was taken on 4 September 1983, and the strategic position of Calulo was taken on 5 September 1983. At the later position, 27 foreigners were taken prisoner, including Portuguese, Brazilian, and Spanish citizens. The identity of the captives will be supplied to the committee of International Red Cross in Geneva in due time.

During this 10-day period, the enemy suffered the following losses: 315 FAPLA soldiers killed, 3 Soviet advisers killed, 17 Cubans killed, 17 FAPLA soldiers captured, 27 foreigners captured; 83 vehicles destroyed, including 6 BRDM-2's; 2 helicopters shot down, an Mi-8 and an Mi-24; 8 trains attacked, including 5 along the Benguela railway line and 3 along the Angola railway line; 11 bridges destroyed, 820 weapons captured, and 25,000 civilians freed.

During the same period, UNITA lost 20 men and suffered 71 wounded and 5 missing. UNITA will continue its offensive, encouraged by these results. However, the UNITA leadership once again makes its appeal to the MPLA leadership to begin direct negotiations without delay to put an end to the civil war which is destroying the country and its people.

We are aware of the arrival of new contingents of Cuban troops and more sophisticated Soviet war materiel to enable the MPLA to continue the fratricidal struggle. We are also aware of the high rate of FAPLA desertions to UNITA or to home villages due to FAPLA's low morale. We also know about the destruction of bridges carried out by FAPLA soldiers and the Cubans in the Provinces of Moxico, Cuando Cubango, Cunene, and Huila in fear of a mass advance by UNITA forces and in an effort to make it hard for us to supply units situated north of the Benguela railway line.

If the MPLA insists on maintaining the Cubans in Angola, it is going to suffer the following short-term consequences: an increase in the people's and FAPLA's hatred for the Cubans, increasing pressure from the West on the MPLA in the case of Namibia, an increase in the MPLA's dependence on Russians and Cubans, an increase in time it takes UNITA to complete its preparations for the final blow, and a worsened impasse on the issues of Namibian independence and peace in southern Africa. During this period the decision on whether or not there will be peace in Angola and whether or not there will be independence for Namibia, with its resultant stability for southern Africa, all depends on the MPLA. As time goes on, however, we believe the axis of these decisions will shift from the MPLA to other competing forces.

Dawn of Angola. The struggle triumphs. United we shall win.

Angola, 5 September 1983, year of the anti-Cuban campaign.

Signed: Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, president of UNITA.

LESOTHO

Post Office, Airport Buildings Damaged in Explosions

MB171230 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] Two public buildings in Maseru have been extensively damaged by explosions. The explosions occured in the early hours of today at the Pitso [meeting] Ground Post Office and at the goods shelter for domestic flights at Leabua Jonathan Airport. Two more business buildings were attacked. They are the Thusanang Store at (Mothing Poso) and the Tlokweng Lodge at Upper Tamae. Both these businessess are owned by Mr (Tlilae) a well-known Maseru businessman.

The following is a brief assessment of the damage: At the airport extensive damage was done to the corrugated iron shelter. Part of the roofing has been brought to the ground, and windows, including those of neighboring buildings, were shattered. Goods and parcels which had been kept in the building for delivery to the mountains were damaged. These were from Maseru and other countries.

At the Pitso Ground Post Office, apart from the fact that the building has been extensively damaged, parcels, registered letters, and other letters were damaged, and postal services at this post office have been interrupted. Firemen and police, however, were able to salvage most of the letters. It has been established that the damage at the post office was caused by a parcel bomb, whereas the damage to the airport goods shed was caused by a bomb hidden in a trunk. Police have begun investigations and are reported to have a lead that will help them arrest those responsible for the blast at the airport and at the Pitso Ground Post Office.

A spokesman for the Lesotho Government has, meanwhile, deplored the damage done to the public properties, particularly because the two buildings served regardless of political inclination. The spokesman said the Pitso Ground Post Office is one of the establishments built to bring the social services to the people. He said the government will act immediately to restore the postal services at the Pitso Ground Post Office. The airport goods shed will also be reconstructed. Meanwhile, a spokesman for Lesotho Airways said flights, both internal and external, will go on as normal.

Information Minister on Explosions

MB171248 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 17 Sep 83

[Text] The minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Desmond T. Sixishe, today urged chiefs and development committees of two constituencies in the Maseru district to unite in their fight [words indistinct] attacks perpetrated by the self-styled Lesotho Liberation Army bandits in collaboration with the Boers.

Addressing a mass gathering of the committees and chiefs at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Headquarters in Maseru this morning, Mr Sixishe said the recent activities of the bandits show that their aggression is aimed at the civilian population and its property. He refered to the Maseru predawn explosions of today, which have caused extensive damage to the Pitso Ground Post Office and Leabua Jonathan Airport goods shed. He said the property damaged [words indistinct] belongs to the public.

The minister said the recent attacks were by civilians who were taking orders from the bandits. He said such brutality called for more united communities and more cooperation between chiefs and development committees. He appealed to the committees to arrange with their chiefs [words indistinct] to protect the rural areas from attacks. The minister urged them to report any [words indistinct] person fooling about in the villages. The meeting was also attended by [words indistinct] and members of the public.

SAPA Cites LLA Spokesman on 18 September Attacks

MB190914 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0857 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Leribe, Sep 19, SAPA — Eight members of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force [LPF] were allegedly killed last night in a "two-pronged" attack on their bases by the Lesotho Liberation Army, a man, purporting to be the LLA's chief political spokesman, said today. In a statement, the spokesman alleged that the attacks both took place at Mafikalifiu Makhoakhodong, in the Butha-Buthe district.

The home of a woman known only as Malikhapha — who allegedly allowed her house to be used by the LPF as a "military camp extension" — was attacked first, and five LPF men were killed, the spokesman claimed. The LLA force then attacked a caravan — allegedly another military camp extension — and three LPF soldiers were killed and others seriously injured, the spokesman said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Colored Leaders Demand Referendum on Constitution

MB161959 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1246 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Cape Town, Sept 16, SAPA — Leading Coloured politicians today demanded a referendum on the new constitution, and the Labour Party said they wanted it on the same day as white voters — and on the same question. However, the United Democratic Front is likely to boycott the referendum, although a final decision is yet to be taken.

The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, said yesterday that if Coloured and Indian leaders wanted a referendum, they could have one. Mr David Curry, national chairman of the Labour Party, said today a clear statement should be obtained from the Coloured people on how they felt about the proposed new system. He did not commit himself on how the Labour Party would vote.

The party is opposed to many aspects of the new constitution, such as the exclusion of Blacks, but has said it will participate in order to improve the system. Mr Curry said participation should not be regarded as approval of the system — a clear distinction should be made between disapproval or nondisapproval and participation. At this stage, the Labour Party was not prepared to discuss its strategy on situations that might arise from the result of a referendum, he said.

Mr Charles Julies, leader of the Freedom Party, said he was suprised to hear Mr Botha still talking about "if" the Coloured people wanted a referendum. He said the minister of constitutional development, Mr Chris Heunis, was told clearly they wanted one when he met the political parties in Cape Town last Friday. Mr Julies said his party did not necessarily demand the same question or the same day as the white referendum, and would urge its followers to support constitutional reform.

If the present proposals were turned down, it would retard the political developement of the Coloured people, who were for the first time being offered a meaningful say in the country's political system.

Mr Trevor Manuel, a member of the executive of the United Democratic Front, said today the movement's attitude was that a referendum could be held only for a constitution drawn up by all South Africans. This had not been done and it was therefore basically unacceptable. But Mr Manuel said no final decision had yet been taken as the matter still had to be discussed by regional committees.